THE NEW
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45K entities to come under ambit of 1 pc cash payment of GST liability

The mandatory requirement of 1% cash payment of GST liability with effect from January 1 will be applicable to about 45,000 taxpayers, which is only 0.37% of the total businesses registered in the GST system, Revenue Department sources said. The CBIC had earlier this week amended GST rules mandating businesses with monthly turnover of over ₹50 lakh to pay at least 1% of their GST liability in cash.

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HDFC House, # 51, Kasturba Road, Bangalore- 560001.

HDFC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED,

Tel: 41183000/232 Fax:080-22275754, E-mail: customercare.bang@hdfc.com
Regd. Office: Ramon House, H T Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai-400 020. INDIA. Corporate Identity Number: L70100MH1977PLC019916

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited,** under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued Demand Notice dated under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s)/Legal heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of payment and / or realization.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s) Legal heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Description of Immovable property / Secured Asset
1.	Mr. Kamal Dhirajlal Soni (Borrower) and Mrs.Mita Kamal Soni (Co-Borrower)	1) Loan Account No. 601330878 Rs.19,03,494/- 2) Loan Accounnt No. 619531679 Rs. 9,14,244/- Total Rs.28,17,738/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Eight only) Due as on 31.07.2020	18.08.2020	24.12.2020 (Physical Possession)	All that piece and parcel of **residential one bed room apartment** bearing No.B0801, on the **8th Floor,** of Block **'B'** within the building known as **"NITESH HYDE PARK"**, having a super built up area of **688 Sq.Feet** (63.92 Sq.Mtr.) Along with **one covered car parking space** with proportionate share of **237.38 Sq.Feet** (22.05 sq.mtrs.) of undivided share, right title and interest and ownership translating to 0.17% of the land on which the building is constructed, situated at Sy.No.49 being converted land for residential purpose and presently bearing BBMP Khata No.1225/49, Measuring 05 Acres 17 guntas, situated at Hulimavu Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.
2.	Mr. Mari Swamy (Borrower) and Mrs.Bhagyashree K P (Co-Borrower)	1) Loan Account No. 626602353 Rs.20,19,296/- 2) Loan Accounnt No. 628219369 Rs. 2,54,218/- Total Rs.22,73,514/- (Rupees Twenty two lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred and Fourteen only) Due as on 31.05.2020	14.07.2020	24.12.2020 (Symbolic Possession)	All that piece and parcel of an Immovable Residential property bearing Site No.52, Khatha and Khanesumari No.92/122, Situated at Hosahalli Gollarapalya Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring East to West 40 Ft. And North to South 45 Ft. Extent: 1800 Sq.ft. Boundaries:: **East:** Site No.51, **West:** Road, **North:** Road, **South:** Site No.33. And any construction thereon.

With further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/ or realization.

However, since the Name of Borrower(s) Legal heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s) mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) mentioned herein above in particular and to the public in general that the Authorized Officer of **HDFC** have taken Possession of the immovable property (ies) /secured asset(s) described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/them under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above.

The Borrower(s) mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid Immovable property(ies) /Secured Asset and any dealings with the said Immovable property(ies)/ secured Asset(s) will be subject to the mortgage of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd.**

Borrower(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Copies of the Panachanma drawn and Inventory made are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is /are requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 27.12.2020

Sd/-
Authorized Officer Of HDFC LIMITED
Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

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POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited)., under the Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrower (s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/ or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date / Time & Type of Possession
1	30258310000045	(1) M/s. Schunk Metal & Carbon India Pvt. limited, represented by its Proprietor Mr. Kumaravelan. B, 2) Mr. Kumaravelan. B, 3) Mrs. Kalpana. K, 4) Parashuram. R.	20.07.2020 Rs.4,45,312.00 as on 02.07.2020	22.12.2020 1.40 p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 acres and 18guntas including the kharab land in Sy.No.39/1,39/2,40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M.Medehalli, Attibelehobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural Taluk Bangalore and **bounded on the: North By:** Mayasandra Gadi, **South By:** Lands in Survey No.41, **East By:** Lands in Survey No. 43, **West By:** Road.

Schedule-B:
Undivided share in the Schedule 'A' property which works out of 195 sq. ft. of built up area.

Schedule-C:
Description of Residential Unit
Residential Apartment Bearing No.B-104 Khata No.311, Assessment No. 42/1/78- T-3-B-104, First floor of Tower-3, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments and is **Bounded on North By:** A-101, **South By:** Open Space, **East By:** Lobby, **West By:** Open Space.

2	30258300000196	(1) Mr. Santhosh. J, 2) Mrs. Premaleela	07.07.2020 Rs.5,20,957.00 as on 02.07.2020	22.12.2020 12.05 p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: Residential Apartment Bearing No.A-102 Khata No.577, Assessment No. T-9-A-102, First floor of Tower-9, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, along with covered car parking space bearing no.18 in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments and is **bounded on North By:** Open Space, **South By:** Tower No. 8, **East By:** B-101 & Corridor, **West By:** Open Space.
The Super built up area means and includes the exclusive floor area of each apartment unit and the proportionate areas covered by common walls, passages, stairs, ducts, well and or rooms, water, drainage and or electrical conduits parks, and or other areas used in common with the purchasers of other Apartments.

3	30258310000097	(1) Mrs. Lalitha Bai, 2) Mr. Ramachandra Prasad, 3) Anthoni Raja	03.07.2020 Rs.5,52,816.00 as on 11.06.2020	22.12.2020 12.20 a.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: Residential Apartment Bearing No.B-107 Khata No.541, Assessment No. T-8-FF-B-107, First floor of Tower-8, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, along with covered car parking space bearing No. 22 in Tower No.1, in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments and is **bounded on North By:** Open Space, **South By:** Corridor, **East By:** A-108, **West By:** open space.
The Super built up area means and includes the exclusive floor area of each apartment unit and the proportionate areas covered by common walls, passages, stairs, ducts, well and or rooms, water, drainage and or electricial conduits parks, and or other areas used in common with the purchasers of other Apartments.

4	30258310000568	(1) M/s. Vinayka Enterprises, represented by its Proprietor Mr. N. Venkatesh, 2) Mr. N. Venkatesh, 3) Mrs. Sumana, 4). maranarayana. H. B	20.07.2020 Rs.9,24,877.00 as on 02.07.2020	22.12.2020 1.30 p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 acres and 18guntas including the kharab land in Sy.No.39/1,39/2,40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M.Medehalli, Attibelehobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural Taluk Bangalore and **bounded on the: North By:** Mayasandra Gadi, **South By:** Lands in Survey No.41, **East By:** Lands in Survey No. 43, **West By:** Road.

Schedule-B
Undivided share in the Schedule 'A' property which works out of 195 sq. ft. of built up area.

Schedule-C
Description of Residential Unit
Residential Apartment Bearing No.A-006 Khata No.261, Assessment No. 42/1/78- T-2-A-006, Ground floor of Tower-2, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments and is **Bounded on North By:** Staircase & Open space, **South By:** Open Space & B-007, **East By:** Open Space, **West By:** Lobby & B-007.

5	30318640000272	(1) Mr. Raghu. G, 2) Mrs. Sharadhamma	07.07.2020 Rs.9,67,191.00 as on 02.07.2020	22.12.2020 12.35p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: Residential Apartment Bearing No.A-104 Khata No.482, Assessment No. T-6-A-104, First floor of Tower-6, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments and is **bounded on North By:** Open space, **South By:** A-103, **East By:** Corridor & Open space, **West By:** A-109.
The Super built up area means and includes the exclusive floor area of each apartment unit and the proportionate areas covered by common walls, passages, stairs, ducts, well and or rooms, water, drainage and or electrical conduits parks, and or other areas used in common with the purchasers of other Apartments.

6	30258310000605	(1) Mr. Shibumandal, 2) Mrs. Tunu Mandal	25.07.2020 Rs.5,28,652.00 as on 02.07.2020	22.12.2020 1.05 p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: Residential Apartment Bearing No.A-105 Khata No.368, Assessment No. T-1-A-105, First floor of Tower-1, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, residential Apartment along with covered car parking space bearing no. 3 in Tower no. 2 in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments and is **bounded on North By:** Lobby & B-108, **South By:** Open Space, **East By:** B-108, **West By:** Open space & Staircase.
The Super built up area means and includes the exclusive floor area of each apartment unit and the proportionate areas covered by common walls, passages, stairs, ducts, well and or rooms, water, drainage and or electrical conduits parks, and or other areas used in common with the purchasers of other Apartments.

7	30258310000812	(1) Mr. Praveen, 2) Mr. Naveen, 3) Mr. Manjunath.R	21.07.2020 Rs.5,45,047.00 as on 02.07.2020	22.12.2020 12.54 p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 acres and 18guntas including the kharab land in Sy.No.39/1,39/2,40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M.Medehalli, Attibelehobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural Taluk Bangalore and **bounded on the: North By:** Mayasandra Gadi, **South By:** Lands in Survey No.41, **East By:** Lands in Survey No. 43, **West By:** Road.

Schedule-B
Undivided share in the Schedule 'A' property which works out of 195 sq. ft. of built up area.

Schedule-C
Description of Residential Unit
Residential Apartment Bearing No.B-207 Khata No.398, Assessment No. 42/1/72- T-4A-B-207, Second floor of Tower-4A, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, along with covered car parking space bearing No.5 in Tower No.04-A in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments and is **Bounded on North By:** Open Space, **South By:** Lobby &B-208, **East By:** Open Space, **West By:** A-206.

8	30258310000621	(1) M/s. Harika Enterprises, represented by its Proprietor Mr. Shiva, 2) Mr. Shiva, 3) Mrs. N. Nagarathanamma, 4). Santosh Kumar Singh	03.07.2020 Rs.7,79,765.00 as on 11.06.2020	22.12.2020 01.50p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: Residential Apartment Bearing No.A-309 Khata No.343, Assessment No. T-1-A-309, Third floor of Tower-1, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, along with covered car parking space bearing No. 22 in Tower No.1, in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the purchasers of other Apartments and is **bounded on North By:** Lobby & B-312, **South By:** Open Space, **East By:** B-312, **West By:** open space and staircase.
The Super built up area means and includes the exclusive floor area of each apartment unit and the proportionate areas covered by common walls, passages, stairs, ducts, well and or rooms, water, drainage and or electricial conduits parks, and or other areas used in common with the purchasers of other Apartments.

9	30258310000594	(1) Mr. Mohammed Imtiyaz.J, 2) Mrs. Azra. M, 3). Mr.Anjum paravisa	20.07.2020 Rs.6,47,139.00 as on 02.07.2020	22.12.2020 12.25 p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 acres and 18guntas including the kharab land in Sy.No.39/1,39/2,40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M.Medehalli, Attibelehobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural Taluk Bangalore and **bounded on the: North By:** Mayasandra Gadi, **South By:** Lands in Survey No.41, **East By:** Lands in Survey No. 43, **West By:** Road.

Schedule-B
Undivided share in the Schedule 'A' property which works out of 195 sq. ft. of built up area.

Schedule-C
Description of Residential Unit
Residential Apartment Bearing No.A-209 Khata No.556, Assessment No.T-8-SF-A-209, Second floor of Tower-8, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, along with in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments and is **Bounded on North By:** Open Space, **South By:** A-210, **East By:** A-204, **West By:** Corridor.

10	30258310000746	(1) Mrs. Geetha. K, 2) Mrs. Kantha. K, 3). Mr. Velumurugan. K	20.07.2020 Rs.6,10,263.00 as on 02.07.2020	22.12.2020 12.30p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11.5 acres & 18 guntas including the Kharab land in Sy.No.39/1,39/2,40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M.Medehalli, Attibelehobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural Taluk Bangalore and **bounded on the: North By:** Maya Sandra Gadi, **South By:** Lands in Survey No.41, **East By:** Lands in Survey No. 43, **West By:** Road.

Schedule-'B 'Property
Property to be conveyed
The undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property mentioned above works out to 195 square feet.

Schedule-'C'
Description of Residential Unit
Residential Apartment Bearing No.B-001, Katha No. 611, Assessment No.T-7-B-001 Ground floor of Tower-07, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments and is **bounded on: East By:** Open Space, **West By:** A-002, **North By:** Open space, **South By:** Tower No.6.

11	30258310000516	(1) Mr. Venkatesh.A.M, 2) Mrs. Sumana	30.07.2020 Rs.5,83,324.00 as on 31.07.2020	22.12.2020 12.50p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11.5 acres & 18 guntas including the Kharab land in Sy.No.39/1,39/2,40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M.Medehalli, Attibelehobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural Taluk Bangalore and **bounded on the: North By:** Maya Sandra Gadi, **South By:** Lands in Survey No.41, **East By:** Lands in Survey No. 43, **West By:** Road.

Description of Residential Unit
Residential Apartment Bearing No.A-305 Third floor of Tower-04A, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the the purchasers of other Apartments.
The undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property mentioned above works out to 195 square feet

12	30258310000147	(1) M/s. Shri Sai Herbal Beauty Parlour, represented by its Proprietor Ms. Savitha S, 2) Ms. Savitha S, 3)Mr. Srinivasan T C	03.07.2020 Rs.8,33,357.00 as on 11.06.2020	22.12.2020 1.35p.m Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment bearing No.A-105, Katha No.246, Assessment No.42/1/78-T-2-A-105, First Floor of Tower -02, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bath Room and a balcony along with covered car parking space, bearing No.23 in Tower No.02, in the Residential Apartment Complex known as "JANAADHAR SHUBHA" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property, having a super built up area of 400sq.ft with vitrified flooring and the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water, drainage and/or electrical and/or other area/s, used in common with the Purchaser of other Apartment. **Bounded by: East By:** Lobby & Staircase, **West By:** B-108, **North By:** Open Space, **South By:** B-108 & Lobby.
The Super Built Area means and includes the exclusive Floor Area of each Apartment Unit and the Proportionate areas covered by common wall/s, passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water, drainage and/or electrical conduit/s, parks, open parking and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s.

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore	Sd/- Authorised Officer
Date: 24.12.2020	For. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No. 10/1,11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore -560071. **Regional branch office:** 'Divyashree Chambers' # 11, O' Shaughnessy Road, 5th floor, 'A' Wing off Langford Road, Shanti Nagar, Bengaluru-560025.

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank

BANGALORE CANTONMENT II
No.109, St Johns Road, Bangalore - 560042
Mobile : 9449860015
E-Mail : cb10406@canarabank.com

SALE CANCELLATION NOTICE

The sale notice dated **25.11.2020** issued under **SARFAESI Act 2002** by the **Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, Bangalore Cantonment-II Branch** for the properties mortgaged to **Canara Bank** in the account of **1. Smt Tavapooshnam, W/o Late Raju Punu Ragan** published in this Newspaper on **25.11.2020**, is hereby withdrawn and the e-auction scheduled for **30.12.2020** stands cancelled.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 27.12.2020

Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

IN THE COURT OF VII ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU. C. Mis. No. 5698/2020

BETWEEN:
1. **Sri. H. N. Murthy** S/o. Late. Narasaiah, aged about 56 years,
2. **Sri. H. N. Lakshminarayan** S/o.Late.Narasaiah, aged about 55 years,
3. **Sri. H. N. Venkatesh** S/o. Late. Narasaiah, aged about 53 years,
4. **Smt. H. N. Manjula** D/o. Late. Narasaiah, W/o. Hanumantharayappa.N,aged about 50 years,
5. **H. N. Shivashankar** S/o. Late. Narasaiah, aged about 45 years,
6. **Sri. H. N. Prasanna** S/o. Late. Narasaiah, aged about 40 years,
7. **Sri. H. N. Gopinath** S/o. Late. Narasaiah, aged about 48 years,
8. **Sri. H. N. Shantakumari** D/o. Late. Narasaiah, W/o. Chidananda Murthy, aged about 42 years,

All are residing at No. 490/3, 7th Cross,Mahalakshmi Layout, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560086 ...Petitioners

AND:
The Registrar,
Officer of the Births and Deaths,
Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike,
N.R.Square, Bengaluru- 560001 **...Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the Petitioners named above have filed the above petition seeking direction to The Commissioner, Registrar of Birth and Deaths, BBMP, Bangalore to register the death of the deceased who is the mother of the Petitioners who was by name **MUNIRATNAMMA W/o. Late. Narasaiah, She was died on 05.10.2018** death place is at **Mahalakshmi Layout, RajajiNagar, Bengaluru-560086** and issue the direction accordingly for the Death Certificate.

Any person/s interested and having any objection in this matter, may appear before the above court by person or pleader at 11:00 a.m. on 31.12.2020 to which date case is posted for hearing, failing which the case shall be heard ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 22nd Day December 2020.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sheristedar
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Bangaluru-560001

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **SRI. VENKTESH.G**, aged about 27 years, S/o. Sri Govindu Sitharam, R/at. # 52/2, 1st Cross, Ramaiah Layout, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560043 is intending to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **SRI. BALAKRISHNA.S**, S/o Sri. K. Sampath Kumar, aged about 57 years, R/at No. 7, 9th Cross, 1st stage, 3rd phase, Chandra Layout, Bangalore-560040, Any persons having any rights/ claims/objections/Minor Claims, in respect of the schedule property are here by requested to send their objections to the above mentioned address within 7 days, from the receipt of this public notice. If no objections are forth coming within 7 days, my client shall get executed sale deed in his favour.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing House list No. 1848/1, Previously Situated at Kacharakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, now assigned as Corporation Municipal New No. 23, Old PID No. 89-10-23, New PID No.029-W0198-9, Presently Situated at Nehru Road, Kammanahalli, Bangalore, old BBMP Ward No.89, New BBMP Ward No. 29, Measuring: East to West - 32 feet, and North to South - 60 feet, in all total measuring 1920 Sq feet, bounded on:- East : B. Jitendra Reddy's Property, West : Drain, North : 60 feet Road, South : Remaining Property of Previous Vendor.

The schedule property consists of 18 Sq RCC Roofed house with all basic amenities.

From : **Manjunath Reddy,**
Smt. T. Shobha Reddy,
No. 8, Mega City BEML Layout Road, Maragondanahalli Main Road, K.R. Puram Post, Bangalore-36.
Ph:- 9845520830, 7353233778, 9611588598, 8867819634.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client **Sri. A. Ravindrakumar** S/o. K. R Anantharam, Aged about 40 years R/at. No.17/1, 1st Main Road, Sri. Maruthi Temple Road, Goraguntepalya, Bangalore 560022. intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein from Mr. M. Suryanarayana S/o Late Lakshminarayana, aged about 52 years, R/at No.A-282, Sector 2, HMT Colony, Bangalore 560031. Who is the absolute owner of the same.

Any Person or persons having objections to the above transactions are required forward same to the undersigned along with the relevant materials. within **15 days** today in the absence of any objections within the above said period it shall be deemed that there are no objections or that they have been waived and the sale deed will be executed in favour of our client without any further reference in this regard.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **site bearing No.533, Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Katha No.701 situated at Ghruha Lakshmi Badavane, Nelagadaranahalli Village, Yeshavanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** measuring East to West 30 feet or 9.14 meters, and North to South 40 feet or 12.19 meters total measuring 1200 Sq feets or 111.41 sq. mts together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on **East by :** Site No.534, **West by :** Site No.532, **North by :** Site No.530, **South by :** Road.

P. N. RAMAKRISHNAPPA, M. HEMAVATHI, Advocates, G1, 1st Floor, 99, BGS Layout, Double Road, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client is intent to purchase the Property bearing Site No.99, Property No.115/2, BBMP SI No.2437, situated at Horamavu Agara Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.feet and bounded on the **East by:** Road; **West by:** Site No.106; **North by:** Site No.100; **South by:** Private Property;
from it's present Owner **Mr. V.G. SIVAPRAKASH** S/o Sri Gajendran Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within 8 days from this day to the undersigned. In the absence of any claims within the above said period. it shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived.

SRI VINAYAKA ASSOCIATES,
Advocates
No.999/8, Second Floor, 5th Cross, ORR,Horamavu, Bangalore-560 043.
Mob: 9591720993

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. SURESH CHANDRA BABU, S/o. Late. Devacharana, Residing at No. 12, Chandra Nilaya, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Ambedkar Layout, Bangalore - 560 032, Intends to purchase the schedule property from Mrs. ARUNASRI.M. REDDY, W/o. Dr. Surya M. Reddy, Residing at Plot No. 91C, Venkateshwara Society, MLA Colony Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad- 500 034, Those who are having any title, right, claim or interest in the Schedule property may contact me with their legitimate claims within 7 days, failing which my client will purchase the Schedule property, as the same is free from all claims /encumbrance and no claim shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Site No. 25, Khatha No. 12/996/25, measuring East to West: Northern side: 59 feet, Southern side: 50 feet, and North to South: Eastern side: 55 feet, Western side: 55'.6" Feet, totally 3025 Sq.ft., AND Site No. 26, Khatha No. 12/997/26, comes under Yelahanka City Municipal Council Bangalore-560 064, Situated at Kogilu Village, Sri. Annapurneshwari Nagar, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 50 feet, and North to South: 55 feet, totally 2750 Sq.ft., Both the sites together measuring 5775 sq.ft and bounded on: East by: 30 feet wide Road; West by: 30 feet wide Road; North by : Site No.24& 27; South by: 30 Feet wide Road;

K. Ajayakumar, Advocate,
AJAY & ASSOCIATES,
18, 1st floor, Thimmaiah Garden, Devegowda Road, R .T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032. Ph.(0) 23335132 & 08048506640, Mob.9880140512.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The generally public are hereby notified that my client **Mrs. Vijaya,** W/o Late Sampath Kumar, residing at No.533, 5th Cross, Huchamma Temple Street, Veerabadrappa Road, Ramaswamy Palya, Bangalore-560033, was the absolute owner of the property bearing Site Nos. 11, 12 & 13, and through release deeds (2 in nos.) she had transferred her right, title and interest over the schedule property in favour of her children namely Sri. S. Anand Kumar and Sri. S. Vijay Kumar and recently she noticed that she had misplaced the title documents with respect to the Schedule Property which were standing in her husband Late Sri. Sampath Kumar's name, vide No.29186/2002-03, and No.29187/2002-03, both are registered before the Sub-Registrar, Peenya, Bangalore, dated 11-03-2003, along with Katha Certificate, few tax paid receipts and other Documents. Regarding that our client had given a complaint before the Banaswadi Police Station on 18-12-2020, Vide acknowledgement No.165765/ 2020. Recently our client came to know that some third parties are trying to grab the schedule property by making use of the fabricated document/s, claims to be executed by our client. Hence, the public are hereby notified that Sri.S.Anand Kumar and S.Vijay Kumar are the absolute owners of the schedule property and no one has any manner of right, title or interest over the same. Hence this notice is hereby given that no person/s should do any legal transaction in respect of the schedule Property without the consent of our client. If any person/s doing the same is doing at their own risk and for that our client will not be liable/responsible. And any transaction done by any person/s in respect of the Schedule Property shall not be binding on our client and her children.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

a) All the piece and Parcel of the immmovable property bearing Site No.11, formed in assessment No.138, Kathy No.150, situated at Nagawara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore., presently situated at Khatha No.150/138/11, 1st Cross, HSR Layout, Nagawara, Bangalore, now comes under BBMP New Ward No.24, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 36 feet, totally measuring 1080 Sq.ft., along with 5 square house, and bounded on the East by : Site No.10; West by : Site No.12; North by : Road and South by : Private property.

b) All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site Nos.12 & 13 and formed in assessment No.138, Katha No.150, previously situated at Nagawara Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore., presently situated at Katha No.150/138/12/13, 1st Cross, HBR Layout, Bangalore, now comes under BBMP New Ward No.24, measuring East to West 56 feet & North to South 35 Feet, totally measuring 1960 square feet, along with 10 square A.C. Sheet house, and bounded on the East by : Site No.11; West by : Site No.14; North by : 20 feet Road and South by : Private property.

BINU.M, Lex Advocates & Solicitors
No.203, House of Lords, St.Mark's Road, Bengaluru-560001. Ph. 7204010174

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STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC MALLESHWARAM(41161)
No.97, Railway Parallel Road, Kumarapark West, Bangalore -560020
Ph: 080 25943732, 25943720.Fax: 080 25943729/3730 Email Id: racpc.bz1@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
APPENDIX IV (Under Rule 8(1)(For immovable property)

Whereas **A/c No:HTL - 62108885026**

The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **19.10.2020** and calling upon the Borrower **Sri. N. Saravanan** S/o Sri. Nagappan, No.289/6, 13th Cross, Balajinagar, Peenya 2nd Stage, Kariobavanahalli, Near K.G. Village Mandir Bangalore – 560058 **And also at:** ESCHLOL Ceramic, Raghavendra Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560058 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice **Rs.2,60,546/-** (Rupees Two lakhs sixty thousand five hundred and forty six only) as on **17.10.2020** + interest from **18.10.2020** + incidental charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower /guarantors/ mortgager having failed to repay the amount demanded as per Demand Notice, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgager and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on **24.12.2020**

The borrower/guarantors/ mortgager in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs.2,65,126/-** (Rupees Two lakhs sixty five thousand one hundred and twenty six only) as on **23.12.2020** and interest from **24.12.2020** plus expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section13 (8) of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Immovable property: All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing No.289/6, Kariobavanahalli Village Bangalore North Taluk, Yaswanthpura Hobli, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet and building thereon standing in the Name of Sri. N. Saravanan and bounded on East by: Others Property, West by: Road, North by: Property No.5, South by: Southern portion of the same property

Date : 24.12.2020
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer and Chief Manager
State Bank of India, RACPC Malleshwaram , Bangalore

STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC MALLESHWARAM(41161)
No.97, Railway Parallel Road, Kumarapark West, Bangalore -560020
Ph: 080 25943732, 25943720.Fax: 080 25943729/3730 Email Id: racpc.bz1@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
APPENDIX IV (Under Rule 8(1)(For immovable property)

A/c No: 33296458377

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **13.10.2020** and calling upon the Borrowers **Sri. Pritam Kumar Sinha** S/o Sri. Rai Bageshwari Prasad Sinha, No. 1503, Ajmera Infinity Neeladri Road, Electronic City, Bangalore – 560100 And also at: **1).**C/o R. B. P. Sinha, New Area, Jakkanpur, Patna – 800001 **2).**Infosys Ltd, Electronic City, Bangalore – 560100 **3).** Flat No.B-1101, Eleventh Floor in Block 1, Wing B Property bearing unity # SIG – 101, "Shriram Signiaa Residential Complex" Dodda Thoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.69,53,428/- (Rupees Sixty nine lakhs fifty three thousand four hundred and twenty eight only) as on 13.10.2020 + interest from 14.10.2020** + incidental charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower /guarantors/ mortgager having failed to repay the amount demanded as per Demand Notice, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgager and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on **24.12.2020.**

The borrower/guarantors/ mortgager in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs.68,00,380/-** (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakhs Three Hundred Eighty only) as on **23.12.2020** and interest from **24.12.2020** plus expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section13 (8) of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Immovable property: SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY: All that Property measuring 3 Acres 39 Guntas in Sy.No.75/2 and 00 Acres 34 Guntas in Sy.No.76/6, totally measuring 4 Acres 33 Guntas excluding 02 Guntas of B-Kharab land all situated in Dodda Thoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, and **bounded by: East by:** Remaining portion of Property bearing Sy.Nos.75/2 and 75/5; **West:** Property bearing Sy.Nos. 76/5 & 76/2, **North:** Property bearing Sy.No. 75/1 and **South:** Road.

The above Schedule 'A' Property has been converted as per the orders mentioned below: By Order of the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, bearing No. ALN.SR/174/2006-07 dated 06.01.2009 which came to be modified by order bearing No. ALN/(SB)SR. 31 / 2012-13 dated 25.08.2012 thereby the Schedule 'A' Property, is converted to residential use: Out of the above an area of 124.80 Sq.mts being the southern portion of the Schedule A Property is relinquished and handed over to the Bangalore Development Authority for road widening under the Relinquishment Deed dated 07.06.2014, registered on 10.06.2014 as document # BDA-1-00814/14-15 stored in CD No.BDAD203, in the office of the Sub-registrar Additional District Registrar, Bangalore.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: (UNDIVIDED INTEREST HEREBY CONVEYED): 710 Sq.ft or 0.344% (Zero Point Three Four Four Percent) Undivided share, right, interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' Property (after deducting area relinquished to Bangalore Development Authority and 02 Guntas of B-Kharab).

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY: (DESCRIPTION OF APARTMENT): Property bearing unity # SIG – 101, PID, PID # 150200301100123060 bearing Apartment # B-1101 situated on Eleventh Floor in Block 1 Wing B containing Three Bedrooms (being constructed with RCC Framed Structure, Laminated Wooden Flooring in Master Bedroom and Ceramic Tiles for walls and flooring in Toilets, Vitrified Flooring, uPVC Windows, Teak wood frame with BST Shutters), having Super Built-up Area of 158.92 Sq.mt (1710 Sq.ft) which includes proportionate share in common area and other areas used in common by all the Apartment owners in "Shriram Signiaa Residential Complex" along with Exclusive rights to use One Open Car parking space bearing # OB-1101, in the "Shriram Signiaa Residential Complex" being constructed on Schedule 'A' Property and the Apartment is **bounded by: East:** Flat No.B-1103/Lobby, **West:** Fire Drive Way / Open Space, **North:** Flat No.B-1102 and **South:** Lobby / A Block / Flat No.A-1102.

Date : 24.12.2020
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer and Chief Manager
State Bank of India, RACPC Malleshwaram , Bangalore

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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SPAIN REGISTERS FOUR CASES OF BRITISH VARIANT OF VIRUS

Officials said the cases detected involved UK returnees or those in contact with someone who had travelled to UK

AWAITING PCR RESULT TO CONFIRM FIFTH

The father, mother and sister of a young man who arrived in Madrid by plane last week tested positive. The young man is suspected to have the new variant as well but Spanish authorities are waiting for the results of PCR test to confirm this. The fourth confirmed case of the new variant involves a man who arrived in Madrid on December 20 on another flight

FRANCE, ITALY TOO REPORT U.K. STRAIN

- France and Italy have already confirmed cases of the new variant, while the World Health Organization reported that nine cases from Denmark, and one each in the Netherlands and Australia
- The new strain of the virus has prompted more than 50 countries to impose travel restrictions on the UK | P11

15

CASES OF THE NEW STRAIN IN SPAIN, DENMARK, HOLLAND & AUSTRALIA SO FAR

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Farmers at Singhu on the Delhi-Haryana border during their 'Delhi Chalo' march on Saturday | PTI

Farmers set date for talks, but add tough conditions

Morcha urges Centre to drop smear campaign to 'malign' the unions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chandigarh

AFTER nearly 20 days of deadlock, protesting farmers decided to resume talks with the Centre for the sixth round on December 29, but set four tough conditions even as it urged the government to stop "the campaign launched by the entire state machinery to defame and malign the farmers' movement".

The four conditions are: modalities to repeal the three farm laws; a mechanism to be adopted to make Minimum Support Price legally-binding, that too for all agricultural produce; keeping farmers out of the purview of the air pollution law; changes in the draft Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020, to protect their interests.

The last round of talks between all farmers' unions and the group of ministers led by Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar was held on December 5. Subsequently, select farmer leaders and Home Minister Amit Shah had held consultations, which too ended in a stalemate. In a letter addressed to Vivek Aggarwal, joint secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella organization representing all the unions, said: "We propose the next meeting between the farmers' representatives and the Centre be held on December 29."

While setting the date for the talks, the morcha hit out at the government for what they called "an attempt to mislead the public by suppressing facts about the deliberations in the previous meetings." CONTINUED ON: P9

Rajasthan ally walks out of NDA

The Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, led by Hanuman Beniwal, snapped its ties with the NDA to protest against the farm laws. Soon after the protests started, Beniwal had hinted at walking out of the alliance | P9

PM tears into Rahul's jibe on democracy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday sought to deflect the charge of lack of democracy in the country back to the Congress, pointing to the party-ruled Puducherry where local body polls have not been held since 2011 despite Supreme Court observations. In sharp contrast, District Development Council pollshave been held in J&K within a year of the region becoming a Union Territory, he said.

Modi's response came two days after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's jibe that "there is no democracy in India; it's only in imagination".

Speaking at the launch of the PMJAY-SEHAT insurance scheme for J&K, Modi said, "You will be surprised that the Supreme Court called for holding of the Panchayat elections in Puducherry in 2018, but the government there, which has not even an ounce of belief in democracy, is delaying the local body elections." This, Modi said, shows the gap between what some parties preach and what they do. P10

EARLY WARNING

EXPECT COVID-19 SURGE IN THE COMING WEEKS, SAYS TASK FORCE

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA may be witnessing a marked decline in the number of new Covid cases and deaths presently, but Dr C N Manjunath, State Covid Task Force member and Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, says the panel expects a surge in numbers in the next few weeks, probably by January-end.

In an exclusive interview to *TNSE*, Dr Manjunath explained, "If you look at the pattern in European countries, the number of cases started going up again nearly 6-8 weeks after there was a decline. We are predicting a similar trend in India and also in Karnataka. It has been six weeks since the numbers have begun falling, so we will have to wait for a few more weeks when we can expect a surge."

Warning against complacency, whether it is a new virus strain or the older one, he said, "People have to be very cautious and cooperate with the State Government. Otherwise, any sort of measures or enforcement will not work. It is in the hands of people to control and contain the second surge." P5

NEW STRAIN BEING STUDIED, FRESH GUIDELINES LIKELY

Amid concerns over the new Covid variant entering the state from the UK, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said new Covid-19 guidelines will be announced soon. "A discussion is on with experts and the Union Health Ministry on the matter," he said. P5

Chouhan takes a leaf out of Yogi's book to clear MP's 'love-jihad' bill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

THE Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led Madhya Pradesh government on Saturday approved the *Dharma Swatantreya* Bill, (Freedom of Religion), 2020, proposing to make forcible religious conversion a cognisable and non-bailable offence.

It is likely to be introduced in the Assembly during the three-day session that starts on Monday. If passed, the proposed law provides for a jail term between one and 10 years, and a fine ranging from ₹25,000 to ₹1 lakh. The law shall place the burden of proof on the accused.

Home Minister Narottam Mishra said the bill makes religious conversion through enticement, threats, force, undue influence, coercion, marriage, or any fraudulent means, a non-bailable offence. CONTINUED ON: P10

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PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/201106/003686
TUMKUR ROAD
Near Sapthagiri Medical College
₹ 28.57 - 46.69 Lacs# (2&3-BHK)
Ph : 8880 758 758

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/201201/003733
HOSA ROAD JUNCTION
Near BOSCH (Electronic city)
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THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 27/12/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana: Dakshinayana
Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Margashira • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Thrayodashi 5.29 am
Nakshatra: Krithika 1.14 pm • Moon in Mithuna Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00pm
Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

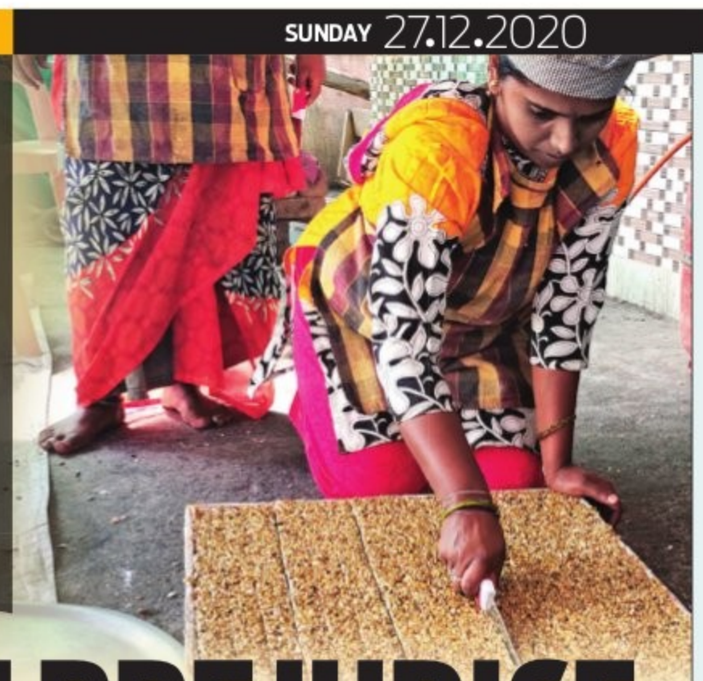
WEATHER
MIN 14°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST Sunny

Sunrise 6.39 am
Sunset 6.02 pm
Moonrise 3.50 pm
Moonset 4.04 am

04 BENGALURU | SUNDAY 27.12.2020 | newindianexpress.com

TOUGH LIFE

Official figures show Ballari has about 10,000 women and girls who were dedicated to god. Although Karnataka banned it in 1982, the practice continues, exposing them to a lifetime of economic and sexual exploitation, disrespect and ostracization. As they get older, it becomes more difficult for them to make ends meet; and government pension is paltry.



A woman readies chikkis before packaging | Kiran Balannanavar

FROM PREJUDICE TO PEANUTS

These women transform their lives, get sweet returns from chikki unit

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@Kudligi, Ballari

FIFTEEN women in Ballari district are living proof that given an opportunity, people can turn their lives around and free themselves from the prejudices of others. Several pieces fell into place to make it happen for the Uramma Devi Independent Women's Association, which supplies chikki to the district's anganwadis, but a large chunk of the credit probably goes to Kankeri Venkamma.

Around a decade ago, Venkamma, who is nearing 50, began to question the system that dictated her life. She was dedicated to a god as a young child through the Devadasi system that forbade her to seek employment or marry.

Venkamma does not wish to talk about some aspects of her life publicly, but is firm in her conviction that the practice must end. "Our children should not suffer as we did," she says. A campaigner against the system, she tends to think of all the girls in her village as her own.

"Although the Devadasi culture is against the law, many are pushed into it due to difficulties and beliefs. Even if we want to lead a normal life, it is highly impossible due to the way society treats us. We were happy when the district administration offered us help and ideas to start the chikki unit one-and-a-half years ago," Venkamma says. Today, they are proud owners of a chikki manufacturing unit and dependent on no one but themselves and each other for their livelihoods or for respect.

The group was trained for about two months, and given a loan from the District Mineral Fund to set up the unit – which currently functions from a member's house. By fixing the purchase of the chikki for anganwadis, the district administration killed two birds with one stone: It created a market for the women and also ensured a supply of this nutritious snack for children and pregnant women.

Monday through Saturday, they make chikki from 10am to 3pm. Once in two days, the district administration picks up the chikki and delivers it to over 200 anganwadis in the district.

Settling in was difficult initially. They had to buy peanuts and jaggery and could only make 5kg a day. "But now, we are all experts in cleaning, mixing, and breaking peanuts and making chikki," Venkamma says. Each day they make and pack 15kg of chikki and have a weekly turnover of around Rs 20,000. Once expenses and the monthly instalment towards loan repayment are deducted, each member of the group earns around Rs 7,000 a month.

The Association plans on scaling up. "We plan to seek help from the district administration to install machinery which would enable us to make more chikki for children and may be even for the open market," Venkamma says.

Their success drew the attention of the state government which conferred the prestigious Rajyotsava Award on them. "It was a great feeling, and we were happy to receive it," Venkamma says.

It appears that Venkamma's convictions have rubbed off on a young woman who is part of the Association. Declining to be named, she says, "It's a proud feeling for us at the end of the day. We are happy to earn money through our hard work," says the 22-year-old entrepreneur.

It appears Venkamma lit a fire, and its warmth is spreading.

Unit founder Kankeri Venkamma; Below: With other workers

THIS YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER BREAKS AGE STEREOTYPE

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

I have to get this picture," he would tell himself. And would wait patiently till he got that perfect shot of a bird.

When many boys and girls of his age would indulge in soft pursuits, this young boy would look for bird sanctuaries in the district. Meet Tejas K Rao, a Class 10 student, from Santhekatte area in Udupi.

"To become an enthusiastic birder, one need not travel far away with field glasses and a guidebook in hand. All that is needed is patience and enthusiasm to identify birds," he says. Armed with a 700 D canon camera and 150-600 mm Tamron lens gifted by his parents -- father Ravindra K and mother Shailaja Rao who work in the field of software – this bird enthusiast started bird photography when he was in Class 7. He has successfully photographed as many as 272 birds of different species in the last three years or so. If the bird watchers of Udupi district have so far reported 384 species of birds to have been sighted and photographed, Tejas achieving this number shows his passion.

Tejas used to accompany the team members of Manipal Birders' and Conservation Trust to watch birds, but he got interested in bird photography three years back when he was gifted the 700 D canon camera. "I used to carry a pair of binoculars and watch the birds. But others in our group had cameras, so I used to ask them for their camera to photograph the birds. For a bird photographer, patience is a must," he says.

Tejas had nurtured this very quality since he was very small. But bird photography taught him more on what it actually meant to remain patient. "Initially I used to be disappointed with many good captures being missed on account of disturbance to birds on the perch. Then I realized moving slowly without making any noise was the first step I had to follow. Then once I reached a place from where I could photograph the bird from a distance, the next step would be to settle there for a minute or two, just observing the bird and its activities. If the bird made a lot of moves, or even was staring at me, it meant that it was fearful. So it was not the ideal time to take out the camera. If the bird was busy hunting its prey even when I was closeby, then I could shoot the pictures as it meant it was not disturbed by my presence. Otherwise waiting till the bird was comfortable was the only option," Tejas says.

For Tejas, a good photo means that it is shot in proper lighting and shade. "In every photograph of mine, you observe a white dot which is called 'catch light'. If that white dot in the eye is present in the photograph, then you can conclude that the picture is perfect," he says.

He continues, "In bird photography, capturing the eye of the bird is very important. Usually I do not prefer photographing the birds when they are in their nests as we may end up disturbing them. Bird photography is ideal when we do it in their natural habitats and during their natural activities."

Blue-eared kingfisher, Siberian Stonechat, Tri-coloured Munia, Lesser adjutant stork, Taiga flycatcher, Indian Pitta are among the birds he has photographed. Tejas, a student of Little Rock Indian School, Brahmavara, says he wants to pursue science course in PU and be a computer science engineer. "I will continue bird watching and photographing them," he says.

Tejaswi Acharya, trustee of Manipal Birders' and Conservation Trust, says, "We need youngsters like Tejas to take an interest in the birds around us and also take up conservation. Otherwise the future generations will only see these birds and animals in photographs."

As per Tejas, proper lighting and shade are necessary for a good photo

"I will continue to watch birds and photograph them" — Tejas K Rao

"To become an enthusiastic birder, one need not travel far with field glasses and a guidebook in hand. All that is needed is patience and enthusiasm to identify birds" — Tejas K Rao, Class 10 student

272 photographs of birds clicked in the last three years or so

Shoots with a 700 D canon camera and 150-600 mm Tamron lens

Tejas used to accompany the team members of Manipal Birders' and Conservation Trust to watch birds

2 top police officers target each other over Safe City project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Rs 619 crore Bengaluru Safe City project under the Nirbhaya scheme has come under a cloud with two senior IPS officers seemingly indulging in shadow-boxing. Hemant Nimbalkar, Additional Commissioner (Administration), wrote to Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar that a woman IPS officer, impersonating as the Home Secretary, had sought classified information from the company, which was drafting the tender.

Following Nimbalkar's complaint, the Chief Secretary ordered an inquiry, headed by Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant, to probe the alleged undue illegal interference in the tender process. On December 24, the government passed an order appointing Pant as the Investigating Officer.

D Roopa, IPS officer and Secretary, Prison, Crime and Auxiliary Services (PCAS), Home, tweeted that while studying the Nirbhaya/safe city project in the Home department, she found "serious irregularities in the tender document (RFP)."

According to official sources, Ernst & Young (E&Y), a multinational professional services network, had bagged the Safe City project through an open tender one-and-a-half years ago. The tender protocols involve that after completing the project, the company places it before the Technical Approval Committee to discuss and seek approval of the Request for Proposal (RFP). "Once the RFPs are approved, the project details are uploaded on the government website," said the source.

"The company, which bags the tender uses its in-house project management consultants to design the project, given the broad requirements and specifications in the tender," he added.

In his complaint to the CS, Nimbalkar had stated that the RFP was "under preparation and was not published as on November 7, the date of conversation. It amounts to illegal interference in the tender process initiated by the Karnataka government by an unauthorised person," he added.

Roopa, meanwhile, further tweeted that Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) had complained to the Prime Minister's Office that the tender favoured a particular vendor. "I blew the whistle bringing this to the notice of the Chief Secretary. This even led to the Chief Secretary calling me for the next meeting. It proved that the tender document was biased and tender was even cancelled," she claimed.

According to Roopa, in her capacity as "Home Secretary, she spoke with Ernst & Young (E&Y) to get more facts to know why such biased tender was drafted by them. She alleged that the complaint against her action appears to have been made at the behest of those benefiting from biased and unfair tenders."

"Each of my actions in this regard is to protect public interest and public money in bona fide discharge of my duties as public servant," Roopa tweeted.

On December 7, Nimbalkar had written to the Chief Secretary stating that on December 2, he had a meeting with Akshay Singhal, the management consultant for the Safe City Project. He said that Singhal wanted to know about the email communication he had with Kamal Pant on November 9 and asked about the developments related to it.

In his complaint to the CS, Nimbalkar attached the email communication. It is "self- explanatory and amounted to clear impersonation as Home Secretary to the Government of Karnataka for getting access to classified information with respect to the RFP in preparation for Safe City project worth Rs 619 crore before publication of tender for wrongful gains without any lawful authority and locus standi," Nimbalkar had stated in his letter.

The Bengaluru Safe City Project is being implemented by the Home Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development to prevent crimes against women in public places.

IN A TIGHT SPOT

Pvt schools wait for govt aid to teachers

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA
@Bengaluru

PRIVATE unaided schools are aggrieved at the state government's lack of response to their demand for granting aid to teachers as compensation for their reduced salaries. Schools have decided to wait for another three days for a response.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar told *TNSE* recently that the Rs 1,000 crore grant demanded by teachers was not possible at the moment.

D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Karnataka Associated Managements of English Medium Schools, told *TNSE* that Chief Minister Yediyurappa too had backed the teachers when they protested 10 days ago. "Earlier, minister Suresh Kumar had also promised to help out private school teachers. However, despite these promises, no aid is given to teachers yet," he said.

Following the government's tight budget due to the pandemic, Kumar had admitted to a Kannada channel about the inability to release a package for private school teachers, with the department needing Rs 300 crore for the purpose.

Finally, skywalk ready for passengers in Whitefield

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

AFTER years of risking life and limb while boarding trains from the Whitefield railway station's rear entrance, commuters have some good news. The Bengaluru Railway Division has just completed a new skywalk to the existing foot over bridge (FOB) at the station, which would connect all its four platforms.

The final touches are under way and the skywalk is set to open on January 11. It will run a length of 170 metres, with a width of 3 metres, a senior Railway official said.

The skywalk connecting the existing FOB offers access to all the platforms at Whitefield railway station

The present FOB from Kadugodi bus stop takes one to the Whitefield-Hoskote Main Road, and not anywhere inside or near the station. It was constructed in 2013 after five people were run over by a train while crossing tracks the previous year, but did not terminate inside the platforms. "This forced passengers to walk back for 1 km to enter the station. To avoid that, commuters used to walk a little further and make a dash for the platforms via the railway tracks during the peak hours," an official said.

Meanwhile, the new skywalk was supposed to be in place by end-2019, but has been delayed due to Covid and labour shortage, said officials.

Now, confirming the completion of the skywalk, Senior Divisional Engineer, Co-ordination, Bengaluru Railway Division, Parvesh Kumar, told *TNSE*: "Trespassing on the tracks can be fully curbed once the skywalk is in place."

Sudarshan Ranganathan, an IT professional, said, "The connection will be very useful both for short-distance commuters who board trains here to travel within the city, as well as long-distance commuters."

DAINTY LITTLE BLOSSOMS

A farmer cuts flowers, that have just bloomed, to be sold in the market, in KR Puram on Saturday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

'Sero-survey can help trace new strain'

Second survey planned in 30 districts and eight zones of Bengaluru too with 1.5K people

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

WITH a new SARS-CoV2 virus strain being found in the UK, **Dr C N Manjunath**, member of the Technical Advisory Committee for Covid-19 and Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research emphasises how it is important for state to conduct random tests and check if the strain is already present in the community. Excerpts from an interview:

The State Government withdrew the night curfew orders on the expert committee's suggestions. So, should people be really worried about the new Covid-19 strain or not?

The UK's new virus strain, according to information available, was seen in many European countries in September itself. Even the WHO also has made a statement that it must already be present in many countries. It has come to the limelight only recently, but it has been there for many months. We will know if it is present in India only when we do genome sequencing for this strain. The only way out of this situation is to not panic, but at the same time, not be complacent too.

The task force on Covid-19 has said we have to watch out for any kind of events in Karnataka where crowds are likely to converge. What does that mean?

We have to be careful about any gathering of crowds. We have to carefully look at these segments like Gram Panchayat elections, Christmas, New Year celebrations, etc., to see what will be the prevalence of this disease in the next one or two weeks. Hopefully, it should not increase.

A sero-survey is being planned in the second week of January. What are some of the significant things to expect from this?

A second sero-survey is planned in all 30 districts of the state and eight zones in Bengaluru too. Roughly, 1,500 people will be randomly screened for antibodies and that will give us an idea about the exposure of this virus. We will test them not only for antibodies (Elisa), which could include those who are already infected, and also simultaneously be doing RT-PCR tests. Then, we will know the disease burden. It may be a good idea to also look for random genome sequencing of non-UK returnees also. That will tell us whether the strain is already present in the community. If that is so, then we don't really have to worry much.

What about the infrastructure for the vaccine rollout. Are we ready? Which ones are we expecting here?

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

Yes, we are definitely ready. The Government of India, as per my knowledge, may go with Covaxin and Covishield. Both these vaccines don't require -70 degrees Celsius storage. In many places, blood banks have ice-lined refrigerators. Airports are getting ready with cold storage units. They have also collected a database of frontline workers and people with vulnerabilities who will be vaccinated in the first phase.

What are the fresh challenges we are facing?

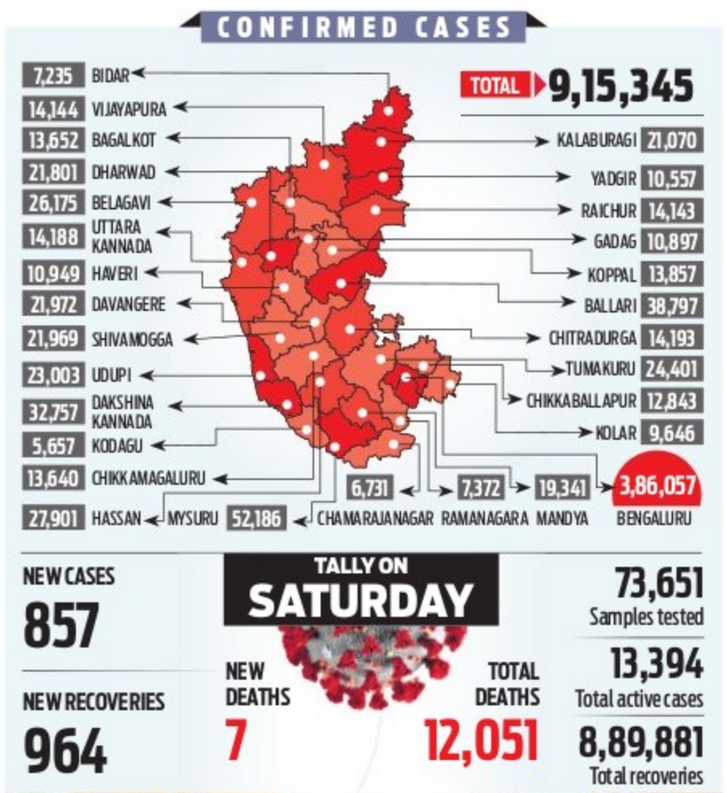
The biggest challenge now is that we should soon focus our attention back to non-Covid care. We have focussed only on Covid care so far and there has been an increase in the number of non-Covid deaths. We can't afford to ignore that anymore. The maximum number of deaths are due to cardiovascular diseases, kidney and liver diseases, stroke, cancer, etc, because many of these hospitals, specially government hospitals, have been converted into Covid hospitals. Now that the cases have declined, we can keep one-fourth of beds for Covid patients and the rest have to be used for non-Covid cases. Whenever there is a need, we can switch back.

What are your hopes for 2021?

I want the Covid era to end and vaccines should be available for all. I feel that the mental health of people needs attention. I hope there is more focus on physical as well as mental health in 2021.

The Health minister is expecting a revolutionary budget this time. What are your suggestions?

In my opinion, the most important issue is strengthening existing hospitals, medical college hospitals, district hospitals or PHCs with necessary manpower. We need more doctors, nurses and technicians here. Three things one should focus on is monitoring, maintenance and management. This is the key.



Health workets carry out randon RT-PCR tests below the Yelchenahalli Metro Station in Bengaluru on Saturday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

New Covid-19 rules to be in place shortly, says Health Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AMID concerns over whether the new Covid-19 variant has entered the state from the United Kingdom, state Health and Medical Education Minister K Sudhakar on Saturday said that new Covid-19 guidelines will be announced soon. "A detailed discussion is happening with experts and the Union Health Ministry about the new strain and how to contain it. We will have to impose stricter and new Covid 19 guidelines based on the report from the Union ministry and task committee members here in the state," Dr Sudhakar said.

Sources from the health ministry said that as the state is expecting a second wave, it becomes important to also revisit the guidelines and ensure proper care is in place.

Genome sequencing reports to be sent to ICMR

Dr Sudhakar said that 14 UK returnees have so far tested positive and their samples have been sent to NIMHANS for genome sequencing and the reports are awaited. The genetic sequencing test reports, as per the instructions of Prime Minister's Office, will be sent to the Indian Council of Medical Research, which is likely to share the information with the public in a day or two.

"ICMR will collate reports from all states and come up with a report," he explained.

He said that all necessary precautions are being taken at airports. "We have also made arrangements to test people who do not have negative reports on arrival at the airports," he added.

Ten labs in india for genome sequencing; two in B'luru

Dr Sudhakar said that the Central Government has notified ten designated labs in the country for genetic sequencing and of them, two are in Bengaluru -- NIMHANS and National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS). "The 14 samples are undergoing genetic sequencing. The second variant of virus in the UK is said to have undergone 17 mutations. The genetic sequencing checks mutations too and it may require 48 hours. The reports will probably come tomorrow, " he said.

No night curfew, but New Year restrictions to come

The State Government may have withdrawn the night curfew order, but has decided to bring out new guidelines on New Year's Eve celebrations. Dr K Sudhakar, in a press release, stated that the new guidelines will be released after a meeting with the Home Department on Monday. Meanwhile, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, "The BBMP commissioner and police commissioner too will come out with detailed guidelines for celebrating New Year's Eve. We will have to enforce some rules and restrictions for the safety of people."

Belagavi will be vaccine hub for eight N K'taka districts, facilities being set up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

THE necessary infrastructure for storing the Covid-19 vaccine, to be distributed in the North Karnataka region, is being set up in Belagavi. The district health and family welfare department is working on having a walk-in cooler, walk-in freezer and other equipment. District Health officer Dr Shashikant Munyal said, "Special walk-in freezer boxes, to transport the vaccine shots in a dedicated vehicle, will be arranged. The distribution will begin without any delay once the vaccine is received."

The vaccine, sourced from Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai and stored in the Belagavi centre, will be supplied to eight districts in north Karnataka including Vijaypura, Bagalkot, Dharwad, Haveri, Koppal, Uttara Kannada, Haveri and Gadag.

The officials have kept about 180 deep freezers and Ice Line Refrigerator(ILR) ready. These will be made available at the taluk hospitals and community health centres also in the district. The main storage of the vaccine will be at the office of District Health Officer and will be distributed to all hospitals later. Room temperature of two to eight degrees Celsius will be maintained for the purpose.

In the first phase, the vaccine will be given to 28,195 health workers like doctors, nurses at 195 government hospitals and 1,521 private hospitals. In the second phase, 2.5 lakh people including policemen, Asha workers, sanitation workers and teachers will be vaccinated. In the third phase, those aged above 50 years will be given priority. The officials are hopeful that the vaccine will be made available in the second week of January. The department has a target to vaccinate 53 lakh health workers and others on priory.

Special walk-in freezer boxes, to transport the vaccine shots in a dedicated vehicle, will be arranged. The distribution will begin without any delay once the vaccine is received

Dr Shashikant Munyal, District Health officer

EXPRESS READ

Hospital demands ₹10L more to release Covid patient's body

Bengaluru: The body of a 62-year-old man who succumbed at Manipal Hospital in Jayanagar recently, became a matter of contention between his kin and the hospital over additional bill payment. The man was admitted on November 15 with gastric problems and three days later, the hospital said he tested positive for Covid-19. Meanwhile, a bill of Rs 36.59 lakh was paid by the insurer and another Rs 9.80 lakh cash was paid by the family. After his death on December 23, the hospital asked for Rs 10 lakh more to release his body, which led to a spat. After Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar's intervention, the additional bill amount was waived off and the body was handed to the family. ENS

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POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

A/c.No.: HTL 64205743823, 64205744204

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **17.10.2020** calling upon the borrowers: **Sri Jnanesh Dev,** S/o Lokanath and **Smt. Richa Sharma** W/O Jnanesh Dev to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 32,30,906.00** (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh thirty Thousand Nine Hundred six only) as on 17.10.2020 and interest & expenses thereon, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **21st day of December month of the year 2020.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, for an amount of **Rs. 32,67,828.00** (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Eight only) as on 17.12.2020 and further interest from 18.12.2020 costs, etc., thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that Piece and Parcel of the Flat No 407, situated in the Fourth Floor, measuring about 1120 sq.ft, of super built up area, containing Two bed rooms along with one car parking space along with 230 sq.ft undivided share in multistoried residential building known as "VIKYATH SAROVAR "constructed over property bearing site No 36 & 18,Khata Nos 238 & 261/10/18, Presently bearing common BBMP Khata No 117/350/68/1/117/1 totally measuring 8965 sq,ft situated at Kodigehalli Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on the: East by: Site No 18,33 and 34, West by: Road, North by: Road,South by: Property belonging to Pyarejan.

Vide Absolute Sale Deed dated 01.10.2016 registered in favour of Jnanesh Dev and Richa Sharma in Book No.1 under Document No. KRI-1-05237-2016-17 and CD No. KRID 585 at the Office of Sub Registrar KR Puram Bengaluru .

Place: Bangalore
Date: 21.12.2020

Sd/-
Authorised Officer & Chief Manager

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Tel: 040-23147100, Fax: 040-29807791, e-mail: sbi.18359@sbi.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[Under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest {Enforcement} Rules]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditors, the **Symbolic possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India,** the Secured Creditors, will be sold on **"As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 28.01.2021** for recovery of **Rs.151,64,54,135.26 (Rupees One Hundred Fifty One Crores Sixty Four Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty Five and Paisa Twenty Six only)** plus interest at the contractual rate and incidental charges, minus subsequent credits received, due to the **State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Management Branch-II, Kachiguda, Hyderabad** from **Borrower: M/s. Suncorp Lifestyles Limited and Guarantors: 1) Sri Sunku Ramesh, 2) Sri. K.Srinivasa Rao, 3) Sri. S.H.V.Kumara Swamy, 4) Sri. K.Narasimha Rao, 5) Smt. K.Anuradha, 6) Sri. M.Aswini Kumar, 7) Sri. P.Ravindranath Thakur, 8) Sri. S.Venkatramana, 9) Smt. M.Savithri, 10) Sri. M.S.K.Prasad, 11) Smt. M.Anuradha, 12) Sri. Y.Venkata Sesha Rao, 13) Smt. S.Rajeswari, 14) Sri Kolla Appa Rao, 15) Smt. Kolla Sangeetha, 16) Sri. P.Venkata Narsimha Rao, 17) Sri A.Narahari, 18) Smt. Sunku Rani, 19) Smt. K.Rama Devi, 20) Smt. A.Neeraja, 21) Sri Kamasamudram Vinod, 22) Smt. K.Swetha Rani, 23) Smt. N.Sarala Kumari.**

The reserve price, earnest money deposit particulars and short description of the properties with known encumbrances are mentioned below. EMD to be deposited with the Bank **on or before 25.01.2021 upto 5:00 P.M.**

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTIES

1) All that the part and parcel of the Flat Bearing No.2(202) in 2nd Floor, admeasuring 1155 Sq.ft. MCH No.1-7-264, with undivided share of 1.09% in 2757 Sq.Mtrs., **"Emeraled House"**, situated at Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad, belonging to **Sri Sunku Ramesh S/o Sri.Venkata Ramana vide Document No.296/1985, dated: 24.01.1985,** registered at office of The Sub-Registrar, Vallabnagar Taluk, Telangana **and bounded by North:** Flat No.1, **South:** Estate Lane, **East:** Estate Lane, **West:** Flat No.3.

Reserve Price Rs.39,00,000/-; EMD: Rs.3,90,000/-; Auction Time: 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon

2) All that the part and parcel of the property bearing Plot in Sy.Nos.170/1 and 170/2 admeasuring Ac.3-14 gts. situated at Gokare Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Banglore Rural District, belonging to **Sri. S.Ramesh, S/o S.Venkataramana** and **Smt. K.Anuradha W/o K.Narasimha Rao vide Document No.5389/2013, dated: 10.10.2013,** registered at office of The Sub-Registrar, Devanhalli, Karnataka **and bounded by: North:** Govt Pit & Binnamangala's Land, **South:** 30 Feet Road, **East:** Yudhallappa's Land, **West:** Annappa's Land.

Reserve Price Rs.7,97,00,000/-; EMD: Rs.79,70,000/-; Auction Time: 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon

EMD Remittance: Deposit through EFT/NEFT/RTGS Transfer infavour of "SBI, Stressed Assets Management, Hyderabad Branch to the credit of **A/c No.35754767051** with SBI, SAM Branch-II, Kchiguda, Hyd. (No Lien A/c), Branch Code: 18359, IFSC Code: SBIN0018359.

Inspection of Property: Any working day with prior appointment before 5:00 P.M. of 25.01.2021

For any Clarifications: 1) Shri B.V.Rangadham, Authorised Officer and Assistant General Manager, Mob. No.9010443800. 2) Shri B.Ravi Singh, Case Officer and Chief Manager, Mobile No.9989299266.

For any clarifications or further details regarding other conditions of sale the intending bidders may contact the **Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Management Branch-II, Hyderabad-500027. Phone No.040-29807108, Mobile No. 9010443800,** bidders can also contact Bank's approved Resolution Agency **M/s. Tirumala Financial Services, Mobile No.9951243449, 99487 39933** also may contact the Bank's approved service provider **M/s C1 India Pvt. Ltd., Building 301, Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Gulf Petrochem Building, Gurgaon, Haryana-122015, https://www.bankeauctions.com, Help Line: +91-124-4302020/21/22/23/24,+91-9700333933, email ID: support@bankeauctions.com** and **bikkina.gandhi@c1india.com**, prior to the date of e-auction. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **State Bank of India,** the Secured Creditor's Website: **https://bank.sbi / www.sbi.co.in** and also at the web portal **https://www.bankeauctions.com** of the service provider, **M/s C1 India Pvt. Ltd.**

Date: 18.12.2020
Place: Hyderabad

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India, SAMB-II, Hyderabad.

DHFL Changing Rules Changing Lives
DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (DHFL)
National Office: HDIL Tower, Ground Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra East, Mumbai – 400 051.
Branch Office: Bangalore Branch

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)
Under Section 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act and under Rule-8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas

The undersigned is an Authorised Officer of **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 3, 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 18/03/2020 under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the followings:

Name, Addresses of the Borrowers, Guarantors of loan code No. 00033922
1. **Infrany Ventures** : No. 2, Patel Complex, Opp. Daadys Southbourg Gate, Kammasandra Village, Electronic City Post, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 100. **(Borrower / Mortgagor)**
2. **Mr. V.K. Aneesh :** A-204, Daaliya, Daadys Southbourg, Opp. Biocon, Anekal, Kammasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka-560100. **(Guarantor)**
3. **Mrs. Jeena Maria Sebastian :** A-204, Daaliya, Daadys Southbourg, Opp. Biocon, Anekal, Kammasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka-560100. **(Guarantor)**
4. **Smt. Manjula** : No. 270, Venkateshwara Nilayar, 4th Cross, 4th Main, Begur Road, Near Ganpati Temple, Begur-560068. **(Consenting Party / Mortgagor)**
5. **Sri. Balappa** : Hebbagodi Village, Near Biocon, Hosur, Main Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100. **(Consenting Party / Mortgagor)**
6. **Sri. Anandan** : No.145, Aradhana Apartment, "B" Block, Flat No. 204, 1st, Main Road, Charmaraj Pet, Near Sirsi Circle, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560036. **(Consenting Party / Mortgagor)**
7. **C. Sampath** : Chinaswamy Naidu Building, Hebbagodi, Karmmaodia Cross, Hosur Road, Electronic City, Bangalore, Karnataka -560100. **(Consenting Party / Mortgagor)**
8. **Sri. K. Srinivasaa Reddy** : M 308, New ASTC, HUDCO, Hosur, T K Krishnagiri Dist – 635109. **(Consenting Party / Mortgagor)**
9. **Sri. K. Ravindranath Reddy** : M 308, New ASTC, HUDCO Hosur TK, Krishnagiri Dist – 635109. **(Consenting Party / Mortgagor)**
10. **Ms. Veena** : Chinaswamy Naidu Building, Hebbagodi, Karmmaodia Cross, Hosur Road, Electronic City, Bangalore, Karnataka -560100. **(Consenting Party / Mortgagor)**
11. **Sri. R. Balasundaram** : No. 45, 5th Cross Vidhanagar, Bommasandra, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560099. **(Consenting Party / Mortgagor)**
12. **Sri. S. Subramani** : Srinivasa Nilayam House, Hosur 15, 7th Cross , 60 feet road, J C Nagar Bangalore, Karnataka-560 086. **(Consenting Party/ Mortgagor)**

For Loan Account Code No. 00033922 of Bangalore Branch to repay the amount outstanding, as mentioned in the notice, of Rs.10,77,49,550 (Rupees Ten Crore Seventy Seven Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Only) outstanding and payable as on 12/03/2020, with further interest, non-compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs and any other charges etc. from 13/03/2020 till the date of repayment of liability in full, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the abovementioned demand notice.

The Borrower, Guarantors and Mortgagors/Consenting parties having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, Guarantor, Mortgagors/ Consenting parties and public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession of the properties** described in Schedule I and II written hereunder on this date 21/12/2020 and 22/12/2020 respectively in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors/Consenting parties in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties described in schedule I and II written hereunder and any dealings with the said properties will be subject to the charge of DHFL, for an amount of Rs.10,77,49,550/- (Rupees Ten Crore Seventy Seven Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Only) outstanding and payable as on 12/03/2020, with further interest, non-compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs and any other charges etc. from 13/03/2020 till the date of repayment of the entire liability of the Loan Account Code No. 00033922 of Bangalore Branch.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

1. Exclusive charge by way of mortgage of the piece & parcel of property bearing Sy. No. 16/2, 16/7, 16/8 and 16/9 admeasuring 1 Acres 34 Guntas situated at Thirupalya Village, Jigani Hobali, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District containing the project **"Infrany Trinity"**, together with 48 Unsold Flats/Units more particularly described in section 13 (2) Notice dated 18/03/2020 along with present and future constructions thereon excluding a) the landowner's share of saleable area along with proportionate undivided share of land & b) the sold and registered units along with proportionate undivided share of land.
2. Exclusive charge by way of mortgage of the piece & parcel of property bearing Sy. No. 56 admeasuring 1 Acre 5 ½ Guntas out of 1 Acre 11 Guntas situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District containing the project **"Infrany Petals"** together with 13 Unsold Flats/Units more particularly described in section 13 (2) Notice dated 18/03/2020 along with present and future constructions thereon excluding the sold and registered units along with proportionate undivided share of land.

(Flats/Units constructed in **"Infrany Trinity"** and **"Infrany Petals"** for which DHFL has issued NOCs for sale/lease, may be excluded from the list mentioned hereinabove, on production of copies of the NOCs of DHFL along with proofs in respect of payment made to DHFL and compliances of all other terms and conditions stipulated therein)

Please Note that under sub-section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act the Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors are barred from transferring and/or dealing with any of the Secured Asset(s) described above by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without obtaining prior written consent of DHFL and non-compliance of the said provisions of the SARFAESI Act is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the SARFAESI Act.

As per Rule 3 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 we hereby draw your attention to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act under which the Borrower has right to redeem the "Secured Assets" by tendering the amount of dues of the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets.

This notice is issued without prejudice to DHFL's rights and remedies available to it under all other Acts and the same shall not be construed as waiver of any of them. DHFL also reserves its right to raise further demands for the sums found due and payable by the Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors to DHFL.

All correspondence pertaining to this notice must be addressed to The Authorised Officer, Project Finance Division, HDIL Tower, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East) Mumbai 400051.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 27.12.2020

Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer

Former health minister and Congress MLA U T Khader on Saturday accused the state government of withdrawing the order on night curfew under pressure from the liquor lobby. Addressing a press meet, he said when Christians requested Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to allow them to offer Christmas prayers, the curfew was relaxed just by an hour on December 24

Polling officers deployed for the second phase of the Gram Panchayat elections leave a mustering centre in Mysuru on Saturday | UDAYSHANKAR S

GRAM PANCHAYAT POLLS LAST PHASE TODAY; 1.4 CR TO VOTE

39,378 seats up for grabs; 1.05 lakh contestants in fray; 3,697 already elected unanimously

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE second phase of polls to 2,709 Gram Panchayats in the state will be held on Sunday. In all, 109 taluks are facing the polls with over 1.05 lakh contestants filing nominations for 39,378 seats.

The State Election Commission is all geared up to conduct elections, with all Covid-19 guidelines in place. The elections in the second phase were supposed to be held for 43,291 seats and a total of 1,47,337 candidates had filed nominations. For 216 seats, no nominations were filed. While 1,39,546 papers were valid, 34,115 candidates withdrew their nominations and 3,697 members were elected unanimously. With this, the elections will be held for 39,378 seats in 2,709 Gram Panchayats with 1,05,431 candidates in fray.

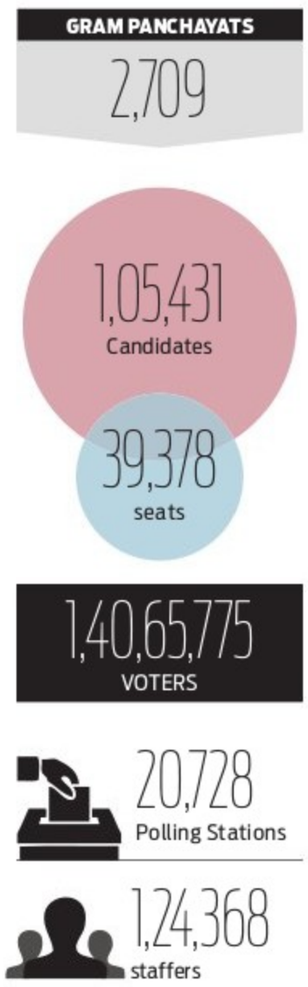
As many as 1,40,65,775 (male - 71,00,113, female - 69,65,074 and others - 588) voters are ready to exercise their franchise. The Election Commission has identified 20,728 polling stations and enrolled 1,24,368 staffers for the election duty.

The police have made elaborate security arrangements for peaceful conduct of the polls. As many as 80,000 police personnel of various ranks have been deputed on election bandobust duty. Besides, 9,083 Home Guards and 5,246 police constables under training too will be deployed. Also, 1,540 mobile teams have been kept ready for sector patrolling for which 918 additional vehicles have been provided. Other than this, 97 KSRP platoons along with DAR police too will maintain vigil.

In the first phase of the polls held on December 22, 43,238 seats in 3,019 panchayats from 117 taluks were up for grabs. The first phase had seen a big voter turnout of over 82 per cent, despite the Covid scare.

SETTING THE STAGE

In order to ensure that the second phase of the GP polls go smoothly, as many as 80,000 police personnel of various ranks have been deputed on election bandobust duty



Fresh from win, BJP looks to strengthen grassroots in Sira

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Tumakuru

SIRA, which went for the assembly bypolls on November 3, is all set for the Gram Panchayat polls on Sunday and the enthusiasm of the people has not waned.

BJP which broke into the Congress-JDS bastion for the first time in the assembly bypoll, is now making all efforts to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

Though the GP elections are not fought on party symbol, the saffron party-supported candidates are known to be contesting in almost all the seats. What has given the party confidence is the Hemavathi water flowing into Madaluru big tank as promised by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa during the bypoll campaign. Wearing saffron shawls, the candidates have been pitching themselves as the supporters of the newly elected BJP MLA, Dr C M Rajesh Gowda.

"In Madaluru, the MLA has been backing his supporters who had worked for his win in the bypolls. Rajesh Gowda joined BJP, ahead of the Sira bypoll," said Jyothappa Gowda, local congress leader. "My nephew Shankar who is with the BJP is contesting and we have been supporting him," he said.

BJP's presence has been felt even in places such as Thimmanahalli Lakkanahalli under Tadakaluru GP on the Andhra Pradesh border.

According to sources, the BJP-supported candidates have been reportedly spending huge money as there are no restrictions on expenditure in GP polls. "Even their rivals are giving them a run for their money as the candidates' prestige is at stake in their villages," said Gomaradahalli Manjunath, a local leader.

T Krishnamurthy, former Congress party worker, who had supported Rajesh Gowda in the bypolls, has made his debut in electoral politics.

BOYCOTT

People, led by Raitha Sangha leaders Dhanjaya Aradhya and Dyame Gowda in Gopaladevarahalli GP in Sira taluk and Honnavalli in Tiptur taluk, have decided to boycott the polls over the delay in the implementation of time-bound irrigation projects.

Need holistic approach, not rush job, on APMCs: Farmers

TEAM TNIE

THE State Government's two amendments to farm-related laws claiming agri reforms may have led to statewide farmers' protests, but a closer look reveals that the chemistry between farmers and traders and the functioning of the mandis need a more holistic approach by decision-makers to ensure prosperity and progress of the agricultural community.

The State Government brought in the Land Reforms (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, and Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, claiming these to be reformist.

But there are varying reactions from farmers on the functioning of mandis and Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets in different regions. This is why, though farmers at one APMC mandi are happy, their counterparts in another are not, despite statewide opposition to the amendments.

When Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa addressed farmers at Bengaluru's Yeshwanthpur APMC Yard at the Kisan Samman Diwas event on Friday, several lamented that middlemen are ruining their prospects. One of them, Rangegowda, a farmer from Channarayapatna taluk of Hassan district, says that unless middlemen are removed from the system the farmers cannot prosper. "The middlemen decide the prices of our produce and they earn more than us. No farmer can sell his produce at APMCs without a middleman," he adds.

But at the other end of the spectrum is Udupi, where farmers find it more remunerative to seek the help of middlemen to sell their produce for a better price in the open market than to sell it at minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the government at the APMC.

Many who have worked with the system say the concept of APMCs works in places like Shivamogga, Hubballi, and Tumakuru, but in Udupi, farmers find it more profitable to sell the produce in the free market.

This is why the annual turnover of APMC in Udupi is Rs 2.5 crore and in Shivamogga, it is Rs 30 crore. Most growers of areca nut, banana, coconut and pepper work with middlemen who are local residents and sell it to them without approaching the APMC. K Shyamprasad Bhat, who earlier served as the president of Udupi APMC, says even before the new farm laws were promulgated, farmers of this region invented a profitable way to sell their produce than to wait for the MSP.

A farmer from Kodla village of Sedam taluk in Kalaburagi, Somanath Reddy, says they are now convinced that they can sell their produce at APMCs or even outside, wherever they are assured of profits, and that APMCs would function as usual. Farmers here have withdrawn their agitation.

BIG PICTURE

But apprehensions continue to haunt farmers. Srinivas of Saradagi village in Kalaburagi said the government could have strengthened APMCs instead of allowing farmers to sell their produce outside APMCs, and that it is possible for the government to weaken the APMC system, compelling them to sell their produce to corporates.

In Mysuru, farmers aggressively debate that the amendment to the APMC act has made its APMC — the fourth highest in sales and revenue generation — stare at a bleak future as the amendments would not only impact the livelihoods of traders and middlemen dependent on APMC, but also farmers, while private players could exploit them with the profit-driven agenda.

Shridhar Shetty, former president of Bantwal APMC in Dakshina Kannada, says APMCs comprised representatives of farmers and traders. Its functioning was determined by the erstwhile Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) Act, 1966, which acted as a safety net for farmers, he adds.

"Farmers could register complaints with APMCs if any buyer underpaid or failed to pay the farmer. But under the new law, the market intervention scheme (MIS) is useless. It cannot be given to corporates as farmers fear it will be misused. APMCs are under government control and help in stabilising prices. When prices fall, funds under the MIS scheme are utilised so that farmers get a good price. But the new law helps corporates, who eye only profits and not worry about farmers. Let them bring changes in the existing APMC system. The farmers are adjusted to it. Let them open yards at panchayat level to reduce transport costs for farmers," Shetty adds.

Roopesh Rai of Dakshina Kannada unit of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha says the new agri laws give corporates a free hand. "They will buy produce from farmers for a lesser price, store it, and sell it later at a higher price. They say farmers will be freed from middlemen's clutches. But the middlemen are children of farmers," he says. "We need positive changes in APMCs, which also generate employment. The government should fix prices for the produce. Tax collected in APMCs should be used to improve rural roads and compensate deceased farmers' kin. Also, the government needs to improve the existing system instead of destroying it just to favour the corporates."

With inputs from: MG Chetan/Bengaluru; Ramkrishna Badseshi/Kalaburagi; Karthik KK/Mysuru; Divya Cutinho/Dakshina Kannada; Prakash Samaga/Udupi; G Subhash Chandra/ Chitradurga; BR Udaya Kumar/Hassan; Sunil Patil/Belagavi

Instead of the approach of sending an indirect message to protesting farmers through its programmes, the Centre should hold a decisive meeting under the leadership of the prime minister to end the farmers' struggle.

... There has been a strong pubic opinion that Indian agricultural sector is caught in a vicious circle. It is very much necessary on our part to be ready for any experiment if it can bring about welfare of farm sector by rescuing it from the vicious circle. I personally feel that farmers should have an open mind towards "experimenting" with the new legislations

H D Kumaraswamy, JDS leader

Cong must stop talking about JDS, says Gowda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FORMER PM and JDS national president H D Deve Gowda launched a scathing attack on the Congress, but restrained himself from criticising the BJP, during a media interaction on Saturday.

This follows Janata Dal (Secular) supporting the farm bills in the Legislative Council, where the ruling BJP does not have enough numbers and recent reports of the two parties getting close to each other.

Gowda clarified that the party he started will not merge with any other political entity. "There have been relentless efforts over the last two-three months to damage the reputation of the party and discussions are being held on whether the party will survive at all. It may seem like entertainment for others, but only those who have built regional parties will know the pain behind it," he said.

In the same breath, he said that the complete responsibility of building the party has been given to his son and former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy.

Without taking the name of former chief minister and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, who was with JDS, Gowda said, "Some people are questioning my commitment to secularism. When Kumaraswamy was sworn in as chief minister, secular leaders from across the country attended the event. But who was the person who played in the background to ensure that the coalition government did not continue? In the last Assembly election, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called JDS the 'B' team of BJP. Who made him give such a statement?"

There have been relentless efforts over the last two-three months to damage the reputation of the party

H D Deve Gowda, JDS national president

Continuing in the same vein, he said, "When Congress approached us to form the coalition government in the state, I told them to make Mallikarjun Kharge the chief minister. Kharge too had said that he will accept the post if the high command gives the green signal. But who stopped him from becoming the CM? Congress extended unconditional support and made Kumaraswamy the CM, but who created problems over allotment of portfolios? I know what happens in Congress, but I don't want to speak. It's better they stop making irresponsible statements about our party."

He said a conference will be held to discuss the strategies to organise the party at Palace Grounds on January 7.

Shettar, Hebbar toil to protect state's industry-friendly image

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

WHEN Karnataka, seen as an industry-friendly state, is pitching aggressively for fresh investments, the sudden surge in labour unrest has left the government red-faced. Ministers concerned, however, maintain that they are working hard to find solutions and to boost the confidence of investors.

The first of these protests was at the Bidadi Toyota unit, where the suspension of over 60 employees by the Japanese carmaker, triggered the tools-down strike. Though the government has tried to intervene, the response from the labour unions has been mixed. Labour Minister Shivaram Hebbar, who was busy campaigning for the Gram Panchayat polls in his home district of Yellapura, told *TNSE*, "1,250 employees have joined back work at the Toyota factory. I am confident that the second shift will start soon." For this, more labourers have to return to work.

Labour Minister Shivaram Hebbar said that he will visit the violence-hit Wistron factory in Kolar soon | EXPRESS

Large and Medium-Scale Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar, too, said, "I have tried to intervene and resolve issues at the Toyota factory. I have already spoken to the management."

Sources in the industries department said that over 60 employees have been suspended and the Toyota management is not keen to negotiate with them because of their past conduct and indiscipline. Over 1,000 employees are supporting the suspended labourers, but many of them are willing to return to work, the sources added.

Karnataka has been wracked by labour unrest over the last few days in a throwback to the 1970s when such protests and factory lockdowns were common. It started with the Toyota unit, followed by Wistron Corporation, which makes iPhones, and then the Asian Paints factory in Mysuru, where farmers who gave away their lands to the unit are protesting against the company not keeping its promise of providing them jobs.

Meanwhile, it was reported on Saturday that Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said that it initiated disciplinary action against five employees on Thursday due to repeated acts of misconduct and indiscipline. This is in addition to the 60 TKM unionised employees placed under 'suspension pending enquiry'.

On violence at the Wistron factory two weeks ago, Hebbar said, "I will visit their unit soon and then answer questions."

Sources said that the government is seriously looking at the problems at Wistron, as the company allegedly flouted the labour norms. There is a concern within the government that the Wistron facility should not turn into a Chinese sweatshop, the sources added.

Both Shettar and Hebbar are caught between the government, which wants an early solution to labour problems, and the labourers, who expect the resolution in favour of them.

FARMERS' PROTEST AGAINST PAINT UNIT ENTERS 34TH DAY

Mysuru: Braving the cold, farmers of Immavu have been sitting on an indefinite strike in front of the Asian Paints factory for the 34th day running. "We were assured by the local authorities of a meeting with the district in-charge minister S T Somashekar in a week. It has been two weeks since and there has been no response from the minister. The same goes for the KIADB authorities as well," said Sachin, one of the protesters. With no response from the minister and after being snubbed by the Mysuru Deputy Commissioner, they now plan to lay siege to the factory to pressure the management. "Since the factory authorities are not showing any signs of relenting, we suggested that the KIADB enforce the clause which allows it to issue a notice, warning the company to comply or else have the land lease cancelled," said Hoskote Basavaraj of Raitha Sangha, who is leading the protest.

Visakhapatnam has been selected as the best performing municipal corporation in the country. The city was chosen by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to recognise the contribution of State, Union Territories and urban local bodies in implementation of PMAY-Urban

COVID CASES AMONG UK RETURNEES TRIGGER CONCERN

Kerala government to undertake whole genome sequencing surveillance in 14 districts for three months to detect mutation of Covid-19 strain

DILEEP V KUMAR @ T'Puram

PUTTING the state on tenterhooks, eight persons who had returned from the UK – where a new Covid strain is fast spreading -- have tested positive for Covid-19. Their samples have been sent to National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, for whole-genome sequencing.

According to health officials, the results from NIV-Pune will determine whether the returnees are infected with the new strain (B117) of coronavirus.

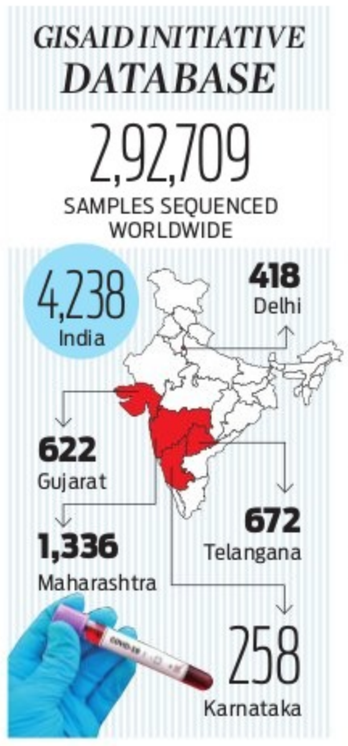
Heightening the vigil, the state government has decided to undertake a whole-genome sequencing (WGS) surveillance in 14 districts for three months to detect mutation of Covid-19.

"It will be too early to press the panic button. Let the report come from NIV-Pune (to be sent to the health principal secretary). The surveillance measures are on at the state's airports and the district units of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme have been asked to keep a close watch on the situation," said a health department official.

"The National Task Force for Covid-19 has also recommended subjecting certain samples for WGS to detect the mutations," the official said. Earlier, some new variants of the novel coronavirus were identified in the state and returnees from abroad and from within the country were found to be the driving factor for the same.

The official said the health department can't rule out the theory of B117 strain making its way to the state given the flow of expatriates to the state. At the same time, the state has decided not to take any chance with the new strain, which is reportedly more infectious.

A health worker collects throat swabs for Covid-19 testing at the ENT Hospital in Visakhapatnam on Saturday | G SATYANARAYAN



With low sequencing, India may miss out on identifying 'dangerous' mutant

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

INDIA has the world's second largest number of Covid-19 cases but when it comes to genome sequencing of the novel coronavirus, the country's performance is shocking.

Of the more than 1.01 crore cases reported in India, only 4,238 novel coronavirus samples or just about 0.04 percent of all cases have been sequenced till now, as per the database of novel coronavirus genomes sequenced worldwide available with the GISAID Initiative.

Even this number is not evenly spread across the country's geography. While Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have recorded third and fourth highest number of Covid-19 cases, a meager 3 and 36 virus samples have been sequenced from these states.

Speaking to *TNSE*, the Director of Hyderabad-based Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Dr Rakesh Mishra said, "UK could identify the more infectious mutated form of Covid-19 because it has been sequencing a large number of virus samples. We are also on high alert because of that."

As per the GISAID Initiative database, the UK has sequenced as many as 1,35,572 virus samples, a whopping 6.1 percent of the total cases registered there (22.2 lakhs as on Saturday).

Dr Mishra says that a major hurdle is the cost, not of the machines that are used for sequencing which are available with many institutions but the consummables used for Next Generation Sequencing, which are imported. Apart from the high cost of NGS consummables, another hurdle is lack of access to virus samples for institutions that can undertake genome sequencing, points out former CCMB Director, Dr Ch Mohan Rao.

Dr Mishra stresses that a strategy has to be put in place for taking up sequencing to ensure that while the numbers are not very big resulting in financial burden, enough sequencing is taken up to keep a tab on the mutations.

CRIME PATROL

Three held over multiple burglaries

Bengaluru: South East Division police arrested three burglars in two separate cases and recovered booty worth ₹45 lakh. SG Palya police arrested Santhosh alias Emme (28) over his alleged involvement in a series of house thefts in and around the city. He had stolen a car and was residing in the vehicle itself since he had no house. He targeted locked houses. Police solved 12 cases with his arrest. Gold and silver ornaments have been recovered from him. In another incident, Tilak Nagar police arrested two habitual offenders for their alleged involvement in multiple burglaries in the city. The accused are Imran Ahmed (38) and Syed Zameer(29). The accused were targeting houses of friends and relatives after using duplicate keys. They had pledged stolen booty with pawn brokers and police are looking out for their associates.

Restobar gutted, loss estimated at ₹30 lakh

Bengaluru: Staffers of a city restuarant-cum-bar had a narrow escape after fire broke out while they were fast asleep, on the wee hours of Saturday. The resturant, located at Jnanabharathi, suffered a loss of ₹30 lakh. According to police, on hearing the bar staffers scream, patrolling officers rushed to the spot and alerted the fire department. The fire spread rapidly after liqour bottles exploded. Although the bar owner, Elumalai, refused to file a case and said that it was an accident, police said, a case has been registered citing that the staffers did not switch off the AC which led to a short circuit. Madhu Kumar, a staff at the restobar, said that they slept around 2am. They heard sound of bottles exploding and came out from the bar to see what happened and saw that fire had engulfed the interiors.

Temple turns 816, spl postal cover released

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

THE 816th anniversary of the consecration of the ancient Kamal Basadi, a Jain temple in the Belagavi fort, was marked on December 25. The temple was built by Bichiraja, a minister in the court of Kartavirya IV of the Ratta dynasty in 1204 CE.

The temple is managed by Shree Shree 1008 Neminath Tirthankar Digambar Jain Mandir (Kamal Basadi) Pooja Committee and comes under the purview of the Archaeological Survey of India.

On the initiation of Rajeev Doddanavar and Vinod Doddanavar of the Bharatesh Education Trust, a special postal cover was released on December 23 as a prelude to the anniversary of the iconic monument. A special picture postcard and a cancellation stamp were also released. A programme was organised on the Basadi premises on Friday under the guidance of Vatsalya Varidhi 108 Shri Vardhman Sagar Maharaj and Sangh who are in Belagavi to observe Chaturmas. Acharya Shree spoke about the significance of the temple. Munishree Hitendra Sagarji connected the dots between the significance of the lotus, Bhagwan Neminath Tirthankar and the Namokar Mantra recited by Jains.

The programme, hosted by Vinod Doddanavar, was inaugurated by MLA Abhay Patil, Rajeev Doddanavar, Secretary, Bharatesh Education Trust PP Doddanavar and others.

Dignitaries take part in a programme organised to mark the 816th anniversary of the consecration of Kamal Basadi, in Belagavi on Saturday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

2 arrested for 'honour killing'

Palakkad: Two people were on Saturday arrested in connection with the killing of Aneesh (27) in a suspected case of honour killing. Those arrested were Prabhukumar and Suresh, father and uncle, respectively of Haritha, wife of Aneesh. Aneesh alias Appu was killed around 6pm on Friday. Prabhukumar, who had fled after the incident, was traced to Coimbatore from where he was arrested on Saturday. Suresh was nabbed in the wake of the incident. On Friday evening, as Aneesh and his brother Arun were going to purchase groceries on his motorbike, he was attacked with a machete and iron rods by Prabhukumar and Suresh.

Tension erupts after miscreants vandalise Vishnuvardhan's bust

ENS @ Bengaluru

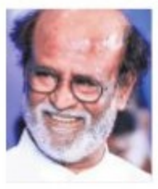
Tension gripped Magadi Road toll gate area after late actor Vishnuvardhan's statue was found vandalised by miscreants on Saturday. Fans and followers of the actor blocked the road and policemen were deployed at the spot to control the situation. Minister V Somanna intervened and convinced the protesters that the BBMP has decided to name the junction after late Balagangadharanatha Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Mutt. Many Sandalwood actors have condemned the incident and demanded strict action against those responsible. Vishnuvardhan's son-in-law Anirudh told the media that there was no information about installation of the Swamiji's statue instead of Vishnuvardhan's.

RAJINI STABLE, BP STILL HIGH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

A DAY after getting admitted to a hospital in Hyderabad, Superstar Rajinikanth's blood pressure continued to be on the higher side on Saturday morning.

Rajinikanth was admitted to the Apollo Hospitals on Friday morning, as there were severe fluctuations in his blood pressure. On Saturday morning, the hospital, in an official statement, said that his blood pressure is still on the higher side. The hospital said his blood pressure levels were better on Saturday. It also said the investigations into his health condition did not reveal anything alarming and that overall, his health is progressing well. The hospital further said, "His blood pressure medications are being titrated carefully and he will continue to be under close monitoring. He has been advised complete rest in view of his labile blood pressure and visitors are not being allowed to meet him."



The hospital in the evening said that a few more reports of tests are awaited. Based on the test reports and the status of his blood pressure overnight, a call will be taken on Sunday morning on his discharge from the hospital.

IN THE HC

Karnataka High Court quashes NOCs issued to fuel station

Bengaluru: In a relief to residents of Mahalakshmi Layout in Bengaluru, the Karnataka High Court has quashed the No Objection Certificates issued by the BBMP and the City Police Commissioner for setting up a fuel station in a residential area in violation of BDA's zonal regulations. The two NOCs were issued in favour of Nayara Energy Ltd, permitting 25 KL of Motor Spirit and 30 KL of HSD for a petrol pump/fuel station at Mahalakshmi Layout. Justice R Devdas quashed the NOCs while allowing the petition filed by Suvarnamma and V S Shettar, residents of Mahalakshmi Layout. The order stated that BBMP health officer and the police commissioner issued NOCs on March 19 and May 20. On residents' request, the BDA conducted an inspection and found that a petrol bunk/filling station was not permissible in the property. On September 15, the BDA commissioner wrote to the BBMP Commissioner on the need to adhere to zonal regulations. The BBMP commissioner, on October 8, replied that the filling station was permitted as per Table 5 (T2) and the words 'filling station, service station' were not used in Table 7.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, the undersigned **SWETHA PRATHAP** (New Name) previously called **SUJA & SWETHA .P.B** (Old Name), aged about 28 years, W/o Mr. Prathap. P, resident at: No. 5/60, Padmalaya, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560016, Karnataka, India, state that I have changed my name from **SUJA & SWETHA .P.B** to **SWETHA PRATHAP** by swearing to an affidavit in front of Notary public **Mr. K.B. Sadha Shivappa** on 25/12/2020 for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AMRARAM KESHARAM**, R/at No.28, 2nd Floor, GP Lane, 2nd Cross, Cottonpet, Bengaluru -560053 have changed my name to **AMRA RAM** vide affidavit dated:26/12/2020 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) LIYAQATH KHAN, Residing at No: 42, 11th 'D' Cross, Padarayanapura, Bangalore-560026. have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) LIYAKHATH KHAN** vide affidavit Dated 26/12/2020 sworn before Notary H S Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **DIVAKAR .S** S/o Shanmuga Raju, aged about 33 years, R/a No. 293, 13th Cross, G.K. Layout, Parappana Agrahara, Bangalore-560100, do hereby declare that my original name is **DIVAKAR S**, but in my Passport my name is mentioned along with my father's surname as **DIVAKAR SHANMUGA RAJU KANDASWAMY,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **DIVAKAR SHANMUGA RAJU** or **DIVAKAR S**, for all Practial purposes, vide affidavit dated 23-12-2020, sworn before advocate and Notary **K. MURLIDHARAN** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SAIRAMA VENKATAKUBER JYOTHIR ADITYA**, Aged About 25 Years, S/o **KUBER SINGH V.K**, R/at Flat No.1003, Mantri Pinnacle Cave Temple Road, Hulimavu, Near Meenakshi Mall, Bengaluru -560076 have changed my name to **JYOTHIR ADITYA SAIRAMA VENKATAKUBER** vide affidavit dated:25/12/2020 Before Notary **R.J.Solanki** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SAI MADHURI RAVISHANKAR**, D/o. Sri Ramachandra Rao Kovuru, residing at No. 102, SKVC Saffire, 2nd Cross Road, Prashantiniketan Layout, Basavanna Nagar, Hoodi Vilage, Bengaluru-560048, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) SAI MADHURI** vide affidavit Dated 26/12/2020 sworn before Notary Veena.J., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRAVEENA C**, residing at No.53, 18th A Cross, Thigalara Palya, Raghavendra Layout, Bengaluru - 560058, have changed my name to **PRAVEENA M**, vide affidavit dated 25 Dec 2020 sworn before notary M.K.Devaki, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NASEEMA**, R/at No.12/2, 22nd Main, 2nd Cross, JP Nagar, 5th Phase, Vinayaka Nagar, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to **UME SABA** vide affidavit dated:26/12/2020 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nagaraja G, Aged about 41 years, S/o R Gangadharaiah, and Dhanalakshmi K, aged about 39 years W/o Nagaraja G, Residing at # 82, 2nd Main Road, Gnanabharathi layout, 1st Block, Kengeri, Bangalore-560059, have changed my Name Nagaraj to **Nagaraja G (NEW NAME),** and My Wife name from Dhanalakshmi to **Dhanalakshmi K. (NEW NAME),** vide affidavit dated 16.02.2019 sworn before notary M.K. Devaki, Advocate.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) MUDASIR. M.D, Residing at No: 93/A, 93/B, A S I Town No 13, Memon Colony, Nayandahalli, Bangalore-560039. have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) MUDASIR SOYAB SHARIF** vide affidavit Dated 26/12/2020 sworn before Notary H S Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore.

OTHERS

THANKSGIVING

Jesus for all Grace and blessings received. Rajan and Family. CL00379467

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TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD
MADURAI CIRCLE

Tender Notice No. SCB/934/DB/2020 — NOTICE INVITING TENDER — Dated: 23.12.2020

FORM OF CONTRACT : "LUMPSUM" (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, sealed tenders consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD to be enclosed in 'A' cover and another for price schedule with name of work duly superscribed to be enclosed in 'B' cover, are invited from the registered contractors under Class-I and above in TNSCB / Government Departments / Government undertakings by the Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board,169.K.K.Nagar Main Road, Madurai - 20 **up to 3.00 PM on 12.01.2021** and the same will be opened **at 3.15 PM** on the same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee.

Sl. No.	NAME OF WORK	Tender Value (Rs. In Lakhs) / Period of Contract	EMD (in Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Construction of 504 Slum tenements adopting T.D.37/2018 including internal water supply, sanitary and electrification arrangements including development works at Pottalkalam Phase-I, Allinagaram Municipality in Theni District under HFA, Vertical-III (AHP) of PMAY. **CER-Madurai No.7/HFA/2020-21**	4654.00 / 12 Months	23,40,000/-
2	Construction of 264 nos of slum tenements adopting T.D.31/2017 (G+2) including internal water supply, sanitary and electrification arrangemens including development works at Chatrapatti in Koduvilarpatti village in Theni District under HFA, Group-I. **CER-Madurai No.8/HFA/2020-21**	2332.00 / 12 Months	11,76,000/-
3	Construction of 240nos of slum tenements adopting T.D.31/2017 (G+2) including internal water supply, sanitary and electrification arrangemens including development works at Chatrapatti in Koduvilarpatti village in Theni District under HFA,Group-II. **CER-Madurai No.9/HFA/2020-21**	2103.00 / 12 Months	10,62,000/-

The cost of tender schedule, EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's Cheque from Nationalised / Scheduled Bank payable in favour of the Executive Engineer,Madurai Division, TNSCB, payable at Madurai. The tender documents may be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle, TNSCB,169.KK Nagar Main Road, Madurai - 20 on written requisition along with cost of the tender document to a value of Rs.17,700/-(Non refundable) **upto 3.00 PM on 11.01.2021.**

Conditions for participating in the tenders may be seen from the website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in.**

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

"169,K.K.Nagar Main Road," Opp. Jawagar Hospital, Madurai 625 020. DIPR/4989/TENDER/2020

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MADURAI CIRCLE.

STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC MALLESHWARAM(41161)
No.97, Railway Parallel Road, Kumarapark West, Bangalore -560020
Ph: 080 25943732, 25943720.Fax: 080 25943729/3730 Email Id: racpc.bz1@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

APPENDIX IV (Under Rule 8(1)(For immovable property)

Whereas — A/c No: HTL - 62170739715

The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the **State Bank of India** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **13.10.2020** and same has been published in two leading News Paper "The New Indian Express and Kannada Prabha dated **23.10.2020** and calling upon the Borrower **Sri. Dinaker O.V** S/o Late O.N Vijayan No.23, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Aiyappa Layout, Munnekolala, No. G2 Sigma Arcade, Near Tulsi Theatre Behind KMF Dairy, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560037 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice **Rs.44,11,378/-**(Forty four lakhs eleven thousand three hundred and seventy eight only) as on **12.10.2020** + interest from **13.10.2020** + incidental charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower /guarantors/ mortgager having failed to repay the amount demanded as per Demand Notice, notice is hereby given to theborrowers/guarantors/mortgager and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on **24.12.2020**.

The borrower/guarantors/ mortgager in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs.44,79,909/-** (Rupees Forty four lakhs seventy nine thousand nine hundred and nine only) as on **23.12.2020** and interest from **24.12.2020** plus expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section13 (8) of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Immovable property: All that piece and parcel of Site Nos. 61, in converted Sy.No.26, converted for non-agricultural Residential purposes vide order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S)78/1990-91 dated 01.03.1991 by the Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore, old Khatha No.86-26/61, new Khatha Nos.70/26/61, situated at Ambalipura Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West: (52 + 48 ft.)/2, North to South: 30 ft. in all measuring 1500 sq.ft with total built up area 3500Sq.ft. and bounded on: East by: Road West by: Private Property, North by: Site No.62 and South by: Road

Date : 24.12.2020
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer and Chief Manager
State Bank of India, RACPC Malleshwaram , Bangalore

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"Speak in extremes, it'll save you time" — David Bowie

HINDSIGHT 2020: TAKEAWAYS FOR BUDGET 2021

THE gap between India's potential and reality is reflected by the fact that the India Story continues to be defined, quote-unquote 'emerging' for three decades since 1991. India's $ 2.8 trillion economy is at an inflection point. Hindsight, they say is 2020 and the year has many lessons. Here are five takeaways for Budget 2021.

Invest in Human Capital: India's strength is the scale of 1.3 billion aspirations. Yet, successive regimes have flailed at investing in developing human capital. The state of health care and the broken education system is illustrated by the ranking in the latest UN Human Development Report and the findings of the fifth National Family Health Survey. Take education. Literacy is necessary but not sufficient. What is critical is years of schooling. India with 6.5 mean years of schooling fares poorly — Malaysia, for instance, boasts of 10.5 years and Korea 12.2 years, Brazil and China 8-plus years. Last week, the Health Ministry released the NFHS report. Malnutrition levels persist across states and have worsened in some — the under-five mortality rate is over 50 (per 1,000 births) in many states. The aggravation of stunting and wasting has long-term consequences.

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

How can a nation betting on demographic dividend justify spending barely 1.5 per cent of GDP for health and 3.1 per cent of GDP for education — and the levels have been static for a nearly a decade. No economy has prospered without investing in human development.

Leverage Low Rate Regime: The aspiration of a $5 trillion economy rests on how India finds ways to fund it. Global interest rates are at their lowest, yo-yoing between sub-1 per cent and negative yields. Over $17 trillion of global savings is locked in negative yielding debt paper. Global pension funds and sovereign funds are hurting and hunting for returns, and India could align its potential and market conditions to raise resources. There is an opportunity for India to monetise assets and opportunities. It could house its PSEs in a sovereign trust or fund and raise debt against assets — and use the trust for strategic sale of public sector units. It could invite investors opportunity to invest in the infrastructure push — either through bonds or via Infrastructure Investment Trusts housing ready and running highway and other projects.

Reposition Make in India: Ideally, India and any economy would want to produce the bulk of consumption demand. The mindset of globalisers though has been to view India purely as a market for their goods. If India can re-craft land and labour policies, it could leverage cost economics of for production and the scale of domestic market to align competing compulsions and benefit from the global China-plus-one reconfiguration of supply chain economics. And there are opportunities — for instance, renewables, electric vehicles and 5G telecom services. India will be a big market as the EV sector expands to touch $800 billion by around 2025. The transition to 5G is another opportunity. Currently, India hosts over a billion mobile phone users of which 600 million are estimated to be smart phone users. If India crafts a smart scheme a la the productivity-linked incentive scheme, it could be part of the commoditisation of components and eventually transition to a global hub.

Induct Skills Apprenticeship and Certification: India's economy hosts contrasting extremes — large scale unemployment and jobs for which skilled personnel are hard to find. The crux is the skills gap which demands a model which allows people to earn as they learn and re-learn through an apprenticeship programme for newcomers and re-skilling for those in the workforce. The need for such a model acquires urgency in the light of the many disruptions — from climate change to technology adoption — which could render those stepping out of college inadequate and those with jobs redundant as allocation of capital for automation displaces human interface. Budget 2021 affords an opportunity to design a tax-based incentive scheme which enables employers to fund skilling and for job seekers to learn anew and renew skills.

Wall the Data Ant-hills: The derailment of the IPO of Jack Ma led Ant group, the series of actions on tech companies in Europe and in the US represent an emerging and paradigm shift in public policy on data across political economies. Verily these moves — riding on the percept of controlling market monopolies and trust issues — are heading towards localisation of data for purpose control, storage, usage and monetisation.

The trends have consequences for India. Already, large companies across India — in the financial sector and on factory floors — are rapidly inducting technology for repetitive, cognitive and predictive processes and analysis. Data spewed by a billion phone users, online-shopping and digital transactions make India data rich even as it aspires to prosperity. It needs to urgently fix the gap in data protection and privacy, and move towards a system enabling Indians and Indian entities first charge on data generated and transition eventually to a system to leverage data as a public good.

These are not all but some of the takeaways. Every political economy will and does face competing crises and contradictions. What matters is alignment of policy and aspiration. India has been held back not by what it could not but what it could but did not.

GOVERNORSHIP IS BORING. POWER MATTERS

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

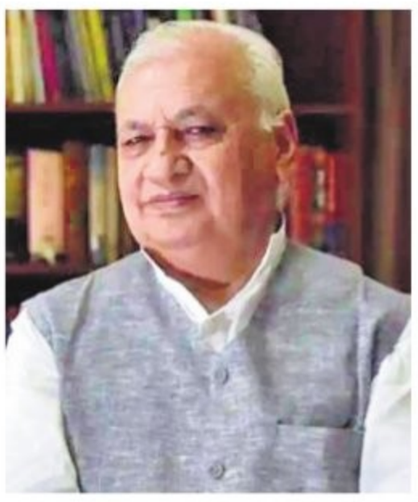
ARIF Mohammed Khan must be the most frustrated politician in India today. He has been made governor when his own conviction is that he can serve the country best by being a power-wielding minister. He is taking out his frustration on the elected government in Kerala, the state he is 'governing'. He seems convinced that he as governor has a political role to play as much as the ministers of the state. Result: An ugly situation that has been saved from becoming a public scandal only by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's diplomatic handling of it.

The state government wanted to call a special session of the legislature to express support to the ongoing farmers' agitation. The discipline of the farmers, not to mention their determination, has won universal admiration. But the Modi Government sees them as enemies, which means that those who are loyal to the government must criticise them. Arif Khan seems to be on the side of the critics. He refused permission for the legislature to convene.

This is what happens when a man becomes over-enthusiastic about proving his loyalties. The Governor's loyalty must be to the Constitution and only to the Constitution. The Constitution also defines his powers. As per convention, he has no authority to ask why the legislature has to be called into session. That is a political right vested in the political leadership. In this case, the opposition had also joined the ruling coalition in support of a special session. The Governor's interference in such a situation is plain politics. Governor Khan's keenness to please the BJP Government in Delhi is a bit, too, obvious.

Perhaps, he should learn a thing or two from the Chief Minister's expert handling of the spat. Asked if the Governor was playing politics, he smartly avoided an answer. He, then, went on to say that he had no problem with the Governor exercising the powers given to him. This was his way of saying that the Governor had no business exercising powers not vested in him. Calling a session of the legislature is a political matter and if the Cabinet takes the decision to do so, the Governor's role is to accept it. What must be discussed in the House is for the legislature to decide, not for the Governor.

It cannot be that an experienced politician like Arif Khan was unaware of these facts. It is more likely that it was his awareness of the rights and wrongs



of legislative procedures that made him choose the wrong interpretation in order to serve a calculated political purpose. People are not likely to accept the idea that an unelected office-holder such as a Governor can interfere with the proceedings of an elected legislature. Arif Khan takes that position because he has chosen to please Delhi rather than carry out his limited constitutional obligations.

If he were a wise man, Khan would learn from the way the consummate politician that is Pinarayi Vijayan handled the matter. With a smile, he said the proper procedure was for the Governor to accept what the Cabinet recommended. He sent two senior Cabinet ministers to discuss the matter with the Governor. Subsequent reports suggested that the Governor softened his position. If he did, it could not have been just because of the Christmas cake the ministers had taken with them.

In most states the Governor is but a decorative part of the parliamentary system. As a resident of Karnataka, I cannot offhand remember who is the Governor of the state. This is in spite of the fact that this Governor, Vajubhai Vala, once invited the BJP to form the Government in preference to the largest alliance of parties. He failed, of course. Who for that matter is the Governor of Tamil Nadu? We have to look into the records to find out. (What a pity that hardened party apparatchiks are appointed governors these days.) As to who is the Governor of Kerala, even people in UP and Assam must be aware. He is in the news with his self-serving ambitions. See how he enjoys every opportunity to talk to a media crowd, explaining how he is the embodiment of wisdom unlike the run-of-the-mill politicians. The Centre must help this man get out his frustrations. Give him a political post and all will be well. (So we hope.)

COMRADE VIJAYAN AND COMMUNAL COMMUNISM

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

A spectre is haunting Kerala, the spectre of Communalism. Paraphrasing Marx's Manifesto seems apt at this time when Marxism survives as discredited dogma and Marxists an endangered species. Left with an obsolete textbook for connecting the masses against the classes, our leftover Leftists are looking for new ways to reach Stalinist paradise. But it's a Faustian bargain Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has struck with polarisation. The 75-year-old Comrade is a classic example of the Marxist muddle; his party CPI(M) abhors religion and regionalism but is now socialising with sectarianism.

Since the success of a political party is measured in terms of votes and seats, the CPI(M) is almost politically bankrupt, abandoned in ideological ICU. Once the party ruled three states, held over 40 Lok Sabha seats and was present in more than ten states. It lost power in West Bengal and Tripura. It has less than half a dozen MPs, surviving on crumbs from other Opposition parties.

Vijayan's bleak choice reflects the preferential practicality of 'Divide and Rule' by crafting a Hindu-Christian coalition as he prepares for the Assembly elections in April-May 2021. As chief minister, his performance during the past 55 months has been better than many of his counterparts. But, he now realises that simply waving the red flag does not cut much ice with voters, who are being abscinded along religious and caste lines. His current mission is to create a wedge between Kerala's two dominant minorities — the Christians and the Muslims. Put together, they constitute over 40 per cent of 35 million God's Own Countrymen. The objective is to convert them into God's Own Communists. The abovementioned communities have been traditional Congress followers or supporters.

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) has been part of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) for almost four decades. Vijayan is cashing on this confusing camaraderie, calling the Congress, in so many words, an IUML stooge. He hopes the Christians are alarmed by Kerala's demographic changes and the increasing influence of hardcore Muslim political parties in the UDF.

The concerned Comrade has reasons to worry. The Welfare Party of India, backed by the Muslims, had a tactic alliance against the Left Front candidates in the local elections. An impressive performance of the Social Democratic Party of India, the political wing of the Islamist Popular Front of India (PFI), in the municipal elections led to panic among other communities. Vijayan seized the opportunity and started a dialogue with the Christians who are the recent segment of BJP's outreach. The CPI-M had lost a large chunk of its Hindu base, mainly OBCs, Dalits and tribals, over its pro-women stand on Sabarimala. Its current plan is to compensate the loss by wooing the Christians and the Muslims who perhaps believe that only the Left can stop the saffron footprint from expanding in Adi Shankaracharya's Kerala.

Vijayan finagled Kerala Congress (Mani), supported by a section of the Christian community, into the Left Democratic Front. In addition, he met bishops and assured the Christians that his government has no plans to implement the Church Act, which aims to establish the Devasom administrative model in their places of worship. The CM's assurance would keep churches out of the ambit of the state government audit. Previously, a draft was posted on an official website by Justice (retd) KT Thomas, a former Supreme Court judge and chairman, State Law Reforms Commission.

The secular credentials of the Marxists obfuscate the first communal act of executive power in India. In June 16, 1969, the venerable Marxist patriarch EMS Namboodiripad carved Malappuram out of Palakkad and Kozhikode

Vijayan knows he has to get the party and himself out of the backwaters and create a red wave around the shores of the Arabian Sea. He is dangerously diluting red with a tinge of saffron and green. But voters are not colourblind anymore, though politicians have become colourless in the age of ideological idiosyncrasy

when he was the Chief Minister — the first time a special district was created for a community in a blatant act of Communalism mating with Communism. It was a reward for the Muslim League's political support of his government. "Denounced by its opponents as 'the illegitimate child of the Two Nation theory', Malappuram – 'Mopalastan' to its critics – combined within a single district those taluks which forty eight years before, in 1921, had been the scene of the Mapilla rebellion," writes South Asia expert Professor Robert L Hardgrave.

Vijayan has realised that the BJP has lassoed away a large chunk of Hindu voters from the Left by polarising the electorate. The saffron party may not have won seats but its popular vote share has been growing consistently for the past ten years, rising from about 10 percent in 2016 to around 13 percent in 2019. The BJP has been strident against the rising Islamic fundamentalism and demographic distortions in Kerala. Both Christian and Hindu population has been declining over the past three decades as Muslim numbers climb. According to the 2011 Census, Muslims accounted for 26.56 as against 24.70 percent in 2001. Hindus declined from 56.16 percent to 54.73 and Christians from 19.02 to 18.38 in the same period. Hindus are vertically divided along caste lines, with Ezhavas and Nairs forming over 36 percent, which is divided between the Congress and the Communists. Vijayan is not considered an Ezhava, being the son of a toddy tapper.

The Kerala chief minister is a Teflon Commissar of Controversy. He was one of the accused in the state's first political murder of Vadikkal Ramakrishnan in April 1969. He was acquitted. He was arrested again during the Emergency. He was charged with corruption in 1998 as state Electricity Minister, in the infamous S N Lavalin case. The CBI accused him of causing a huge loss over granting a contract for the repair of electricity generators. He was again acquitted. His detractors, both in his party and outside, were using these cases to prevent him from becoming the CM. Now, his own principal secretary has been arrested in a gold smuggling case. But one of the 17 Politburo members and Kerala's 12th chief Minister who carries a ten-party portmanteau, Comrade Vijayan appears undeterred. National CPI-M leaders are conspicuous by their irrelevance. They are in the company of Rahul Gandhi and Opposition leaders as numerical baggage. The CPI-M doesn't have a single leader to match the political articulation of EMS Namboodripad, Jyoti Basu, AK Gopalan, Somnath Chatterjie, Harkishen Singh Surjeet et al. Most of its current leadership cannot win their own seats, let alone lead the party to victory.

Vijayan knows he has to get the party and himself out of the backwaters and create a red wave around the shores of the Arabian Sea. He is dangerously diluting red with a tinge of saffron and green. But voters are not colourblind anymore, though politicians have become colourless in the age of ideological idiosyncrasy. The CPI-M may be getting a new political PANTONE, but it is the tone that is disturbing.

QUOTE CORNER

For many, this time of the year will be tinged with sadness – some mourning the loss of those dear to them, and others missing friends and family members, distanced for safety, when all they really want for Christmas is a simple hug...

Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom

I will bring the House back to session where we will hold a recorded vote on our stand-alone Bill to increase economic impact payments to $2,000. To vote against this Bill is to deny the financial hardship that families face...

Nancy Pelosi, US House Speaker

The US condemns the latest attack by Iran-backed militias on the International Zone in Baghdad. While no embassy personnel were harmed, the attack caused at least one Iraqi civilian casualty and damaged Iraqi civilian property

Mike Pompeo, US Secretary of State

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Listen to the farmers

It was good to read that the prime minister, Narendra Modi, has released ₹18,000 crore to over nine crore farmer families under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi programmer. This seems to indicate that he is concerned about the farmers' good. However, it is still a mystery why he is unable to accept their demands. The farmers have been protesting in bitter cold for around a month. They are not unaware about what they are doing; if they are risking their lives in the harsh winter – some have already lost lives – it is because the new laws would harm them irretrievably. Instead of trying to put an end to their demonstrations, the Centre must accept their demands before it is too late.

MN Alam, Saharanpur

Rahul should not comment

This refers to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi proclaiming that there is democracy in the country, accusing the PM for labelling those who talk against the government as terrorists. Rahul Gandhi has forfeited the right to comment against the Centre as being non-inclusive in the country's affairs by siding and supporting the agitating farmers who have no rationale in continuing their protests against farm laws.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Strict Covid rules must

It is with reference to the news, "New stringent policy to monitor positive patients coming from UK"– Dec26. The discovery of of the new Covid strain in the UK has come with its own set of challenges for India. It has led to the cancellation of flights from the country amid the new year festivities. Now every state has a new task of tracing and tracking the travellers who have moved to different states upon their travel, crucial to containment and surveillance. While the government has clarified that the new mutant strain has so far not been detected in the country, contact tracing and screening are imperative to rule out the recurrence of the disease. The WHO has said that new Coronavirus strain can be stopped by strictly adhering Covid preventive measures.So it would be good for the states to be stringent in executing existing preventive measures, including quarantining the UK returnees, until vaccines are launched.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Barking up the wrong tree

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laying the entire blame for the farmers' unrest on the shoulders of the opposition parties is hardly going to provide any solution to the crisis with the agitation now entering its second month. (Modi broadside on political foes – 26th December). On their part, the farmers' unions have been repeatedly reiterating that they have no truck with any political outfit and have also been ensuring that opposition parties are kept at arms length. It is a fact that the opposition parties are doing their best to derive political mileage from the agitation, but the farmers are not acting at their behest and that is certain. Despite quite a bit of mollycoddling from the government's side, the farmers' unions are in no mood to call off their agitation and are continuing to press their demand for repeal of the three vexatious laws which the government is not willing to consider leave alone accede.

CV Aravind, Bengaluru

Abhaya verdict is unique

What is important and unique about the verdict in Abhaya case is that the courts repeatedly dismissed the investigators' failure stories and ordered re-investigation. The courts were keen that the murder mystery of Sr Abhaya be solved. The fair-minded public were also eager to see the guilty punished, particularly because of the sensational aspects involved. Looking from that angle the verdict convicting the priest and nun for life imprisonment coming after 28 years is definitely justice, though delayed. One important takeaway from this case is that, if judges and some activists mind, no criminal case need be closed in the country for want of evidence.

Geetha BK, Mangaluru

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Smriti Zirani @smritiirani
Rahul Gandhi uses foul language against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is indulging in lies to create confusion in the country

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
A fifth of 87 million salaried employees lost jobs in 2020...The poor can't survive, & economy won't revive. PM Modi sits on crores in his private trust

Sanjay Raut @rautsanjay61
All Oppn parties should come together against the dictatorial attitude of Centre. A weak opposition is bad for democracy

Beniwal quits: Not stuck with fevicol to NDA

Rashtriya Loktantrik Party is the latest to leave the alliance over the farm laws

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

RASHTRIYA Loktantrik Party (RLP) convenor and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal on Saturday announced a split from the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) over the Centre's new farm laws.

"I am not stuck with fevicol with the NDA. Today, I separate myself from the NDA," Beniwal said while addressing a farmers' rally in Shahjahanpur in Alwar district.'

On Friday, Beniwal had announced a march to Delhi in support of farmers organisations holding a protest against the contentious laws.

Farmers from Rajasthan have been protesting in Shahjhanpur on the Jaipur-Delhi highway for 14 days.

"We won't stand with anyone who is against farmers," Beniwal, a Lok Sabha MP from Rajasthan's Nagaur, said, addressing protesters at the Shahjahanpur-Kheda border in the state's Alwar district after leading rally against the new laws and promising a march to Delhi. "I was stopped from entering the Lok Sabha with a fake Covid report. Had I been there, I would have thrown away the copy of the farm bills in the house," said the 48-year-old politician who had earlier declared that his party will "think about continuing" with the NDA if the "black laws" are not repealed.

Thousands of farmers from several states have been camped on the outskirts of New Delhi for over a month, blocking highways to demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government repeal the farm laws passed in September with little debate.

A prominent Jat leader, Beniwal enjoys considerable support in districts like Nagaur, Barmer in Rajasthan. Beniwal had launched RLP after quitting the BJP before the 2018 state elections. He however, allied with the BJP ahead of the 2019 general elections again. The RLP is the latest member of the NDA to leave the alliance over the contagious issue.

Rashtriya Loktantrik Party leader Hanuman Beniwal during a protest against new farm laws at Shahjahanpur border on Delhi-Jaipur highway on Saturday | SHEKHAR YADAV

Farmers from Maharashtra reach Delhi border

A group of farmers from Maharashtra on Saturday joined protesters at one of the borders of Delhi, an All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) leader said and added that tillers have expressed willingness to discuss issues with the government but wanted ceretain clauses from the three agri laws removed. On Monday, thousands of farmers from Maharashtra had left for Delhi from Nashik in vehicles to join the ongoing agitation seeking the repeal of the legislations. "We received a rousing welcome at a New Delhi border. Farmers sitting on protests here welcomed us and thanked us for joining them," All India Kisan Sabha secretary, Maharashtra, Ajit Navle, said. He said that farmers have expressed willingness to discuss.

Calling traders middlemen is unfair, says association

Traders community has objected to the use of term *'bicholia* (middlemen)' which is being used for them in the current farmers' protests. They said that it is the defective agriculture system and failure of administrative machinery which is responsible for deficit farming. Confederation of all India traders (CAIT) said that it is the traders who have more connect with farm bills and therefore the traders must be involved in any talks concerning farm bills. CAIT said that "If even after 75 yers of Independence, the farmers are doing deficit farming and for thus blaming the traders who are allegedly called as Bicholiya is unfair. Every party is accusing traders as middlemen and they should evaluate the repercussions of such saying."

16K leave Punjab with ration to join protest at Delhi borders

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

MORE than 16,000 farmers from various parts of Punjab carrying ration and other essential items are heading to Delhi. Considering the Centre is firm on not repealing the agri laws, the farmers said they have prepared for a long haul as were carrying ration and other essentials in their trollies. "We will rest only when the government repeals the laws," said a farmer.

Despite bitter cold and fog, farmers from Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Sangrur, Tarn Taran and Bathinda districts started for Delhi. Sukhdev Singh, general secretary of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), one of largest farmer organisations in the state, said, "Over 16,000 people on 454 trolleys, 50 buses, 60 trucks, canters and 400 cars and jeeps moved towards Delhi from Khanauri border. Some 15,000 pamphlets were distributed and a two- minute silence was observed to pay tribute to those who have died in the agitation so far before the farmers started for Delhi."

The union will send another group to Delhi from Dabwali border. Several batches of farmers from Amritsar under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee are also headed to Delhi.

The Punjab Taxi Union has announced not to charge fares from farmers wishing to go to Delhi to join the protests.

Meanwhile, another farmer, 75-year old Amrik Singh of Gurdaspur, died of cardiac arrest at Tikri border. The Kisan Ekta Morcha has appealed to boycott PM's Mann Ki Baat address on Sunday, beat 'thalis'.

Some 15,000 pamphlets were distributed and a two- minute silence was observed to pay tribute to those who have died in the agitation so far before the farmers started for Delhi — Sukhdev Singh, farmer

'Left-backed farmer unions are obstacles'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Bharatiya Jnata Party on Saturday said that the Left-influenced farmers' unions are proving to be obstacles in the path of finding solutions in the ongoing protests at the border surrounding national capital.

"The Leftists sitting in the midst of the farmers are not allowing settlement of issues. The Modi government has given assurances on MSP, APMC *mandis* and contract farming. The government has spoken with open hearts and even gave written assurances."

"But the protestors accuse that the government of being stubborn. It will be the people who will decide who is stubborn, the government or the Leftist farmers' unions," said Dushyant Gautam, BJP national general secretary.

It also slammed the Congress for the alleged violence against the party workers in Punjab on Friday when they had gathered to listen to the speech of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "If there is any bloodshed or loss (of life) in the coming days, then the Congress and the left parties will be responsible," Gautam told a press conference.

He also said BJP workers, general public and farmers were attacked during the Friday event at Bathinda to celebrate Vajpayee's birthday, leaving several party workers injured."

"They were listening to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address, when the "Punjab government, with the help of the local police, attacked them with iron road batons. Due to this, many suffered serious injuries," he said.

He said the state police acted as a "Congress police".

He said the state police acted as a "Congress police".

"Nobody was stopped, the tent at the event venue was uprooted and people gathered there were told to get out through the rear gate," Gautam alleged.

Farmers' body charges government with distorting facts, spreading misinformation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"WE have consistently demanded the repeal of the three central farm acts, whereas the government has distorted our position as if we were asking for amendments to these Acts. If you are sincere about respectfully listening to the farmers, as you say in your letter, the government must not indulge in misinformation about the previous meetings," the morcha said.

Swaraj Abhiyan chief Yogendra Yadav said: "You know a letter diplomacy is going on between the government and the farmers' unions as the aim of the government is to put the ball in our court. The last two letters sent to us by joint secretary Vivek Aggarwal have half truths."

Yadav said as the government has said it was ready to talk to the farmers on any issue, they had outlined their demands. "We have made the agenda because the government keeps asking us what we want. We are always ready to talk with an open mind," he said."Out of the four agendas the first two points are modalities to repeal the three farm laws and a mechanism and procedure to bring a law for providing a legal guarantee on MSP," he added.

Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal announced the next round of programmes. He said like Punjab, toll plazas in Haryana would be permanently opened in the coming days.On December 27 and 28, the martyrdom day of Guru Gobind Singh would be observed at all the five protest sites on the Delhi borders.

Pal also invited all the residents of Delhi on January 1 to the celebrate new year's day with the farmers on the Singhu border. He said they had already given a general call for agitation and protests across the country, including a ban on Ambani-Adani products.

Meanwhile, a former member of Parliament of the Lok Sabha from Punjab, Harinder Singh Khalsa, resigned from the BJP in protest against the "insensitivity" shown by the government and saffron party leaders towards the farmers' protest.

UK ALARM

SEQUENCING OF GENOMES TO TRACK MUTANTS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

FOLLOWING the emergence of a new strain of SARS CoV 2 in the UK, the National Task Force on Covid-19 has recommended that 5% of all positive samples from every state be subjected to whole genome sequencing to track the mutations in the virus.

Samples from over 50 travellers who have arrived in the country from the UK and have tested positive for Covid-19 are already being subjected to spike gene sequencing.

The task force under the chairmanship of V K Paul, member (health) in the Niti Aayog, met to discuss the evidence-based modifications in testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for coronavirus in the wake of the mutant, which is reportedly far more infectious.

The variant strain has 14 non-synonymous (amino acid altering) mutations, six synonymous (non amino-acid altering), and three deletions.

Eight mutations are present in the spike (s) gene which carries the binding site of the ACE2 receptors, which are the point of entry of the virus into the human respiratory cells.

It was emphasised in the meeting that since the UK variant was implicated to cause increased transmissibility of the virus, it was critical to identify individuals infected with this strain and adequately contain them to prevent its transmission in India. But the task force concluded that there was no need to change the existing treatment protocols in view of mutations emerging in the strain.

The NTF also recommended that in addition to the existing surveillance strategies, it was critical to conduct enhanced genomic surveillance for SARS-CoV-2, especially among incoming passengers from the UK.

"Besides, it will also be critical to conduct genome sequencing in samples where there is a dropout of the S gene in lab diagnosis, proven cases of re-infections," the NTF said. "Routine genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 from representative samples all across the samples needs to be a continuous and well-planned activity."

Watch on UK flyers must

Adding to the existing surveillance, states have to conduct enhanced genomic surveillance, especially among UK flyers

WATCH YOUR GROUND

Tourists stand on the frozen Kholudu Lake at Jobrang in Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, on Saturday | PTI

Covid hits 150 Army jawans for Republic Day parade

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

AROUND 150 Army soldiers gathered in New Delhi to participate in the Army Day parade on January 15 and the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 have tested Covid-19 positive.

Confirming the news, an Army officer said: "The soldiers who came in from outside to participate in various parades were tested before putting them in a safe bubble. Some of them tested positive."

While only seven of them had visible signs of the disease, the rest were asymptomatic, the officer added.

The officer said there was nothing alarming in the development. The test was done more than a week ago and some had since recovered. The soldiers who tested positive were segregated and isolated, the officer added.

Around 2,000 Army soldiers from different parts of the country have gathered at the Delhi Cantonment for the parades. The mobilization of troops takes place from across the country. The movement of the selected contingents takes place through various means, including rail, road and air.

The contingent which presented the guard of honour on Independence Day at the Red Fort in Delhi was put under 14-day quarantine before they were allowed to participate in the celebrations.

EXPRESS READ

Jaishankar to visit Qatar on Dec 27-28

New Delhi: EAM S Jaishankar will undertake an official visit to Qatar on December 27-28. He is scheduled to meet the Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani. He will also call on other important dignitaries of the State of Qatar. Jaishankar's visit to Qatar will be his first visit to the country as EAM. He is expected to hold talks on bilateral as well as regional and international issues.

Board exam dates to be out on Dec 31

New Delhi: The schedule for classes 10 and 12 board examinations will be announced on December 31, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said on Saturday. "I will announce the date on Dec 31 when the exams will commence for students appearing for CBSE board exams in 2021," he tweeted.Nishank had earlier this week ruled out conducting board examinations for classes 10 and 12 till February in view of the Covid-19 situation.

Sena bats for Sharad Pawar as UPA chief

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

NCP chief Sharad Pawar should be made the chairman of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and all anti-BJP parties should come together under one banner, the Shiv Sena mouthpiece '*Saamana*' said on Saturday. Sena MP and Saamana editor Sanjay Raut wrote that the Opposition is scattered and the Congress-led UPA look like an NGO right now. That is why it is not taken seriously by the government, he said.

"Farmers are agitating from last one month but the government has not yet started positive talks with them. This is unfortunate and it's happening because the Opposition is divided and weak".

Saamana further says that the Congress-led UPA is like an NGO and did not take the farmers agitation seriously.

"It is not clear which political parties are part of the UPA. It has not done anything as the Opposition. The NCP is the only prominent party that is a visible partner. NCP chief Sharad Pawar is a very seasoned and experienced leader and everyone wants to benefit from his knowledge," it said, giving the example of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's call to the Maratha strongman. Raut further says that Sonia Gandhi has so far "successfully handled both the party and the UPA, but the people who were around her like Ahmed Patel are no more."

"BJP has strong leadership like PM Modi and strategist Amit Shah, but UPA does not have anything like this. All oppositions need to come together and then only we will able to put the strong fight against the BJP," it added.

BITING CHILL

Severe cold conditions prevailed in Haryana and Punjab on Saturday, with Hisar reeling at a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius. Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states registering a low of 4.2 degrees Celsius

8L WORTH ILLEGAL LIQUOR SEIZED IN UTTAR PRADESH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	8	Mumbai	31	20
Bhopal	28	11	Panaji	33	22
Jaipur	24	1	Patna	21	9
Amritsar	17	3	Lucknow	22	11
Chennai	28	23	Port Blair	29	25
Kolkata	24	12	Imphal	21	7
Srinagar	7	0	Chandigarh	24	4

Amit Shah being felicitated by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal (left) and finance minister Himanta Sarmah | PTI

AASU's ploy to help Cong won't succeed, says Shah

Home minister alleges conspiracy to split BJP's votes in Assam

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

IN a thinly-veiled attack on the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), the Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said some people in Assam, "who have always walked the path of agitation, have floated a political party to help the Congress win next year's Assembly elections".

Shah asserted that their conspiracy will not be successful.

"Election is coming up. Some people will try to take you to the path of agitation. I want to ask them what they gave Assam by agitating. Did it lead to the development or creation of employment or infrastructure? Only the youth of Assam became martyrs," Shah said.

"Some of them today floated a political party by changing their colour. It is a conspiracy to cause a split of BJP votes and help the Congress that fired the shots win the polls. But they can never form the government," a confident Shah asserted before a crowd in Guwahati at a programme where some projects were launched by the state government.

Lives were lost during the six-year-long bloody Assam Agitation of early 1980s, spearheaded by the AASU. It ended with the signing of the Assam Accord by the then Rajiv Gandhi government with the AASU. The Congress-ruled Assam then. The AASU had also actively participated in the protests against Citizenship (Amendment) Act which led to loss of some lives.

> **Some of them today floated a political party by changing their colour. It is a conspiracy to cause the BJP votes to split and help the Congress. But they can never form the government**
>
> Amit Shah

In September this year, the AASU along with Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chhatra Parishad floated a political party "Asom Jatiya Parishad" (AJP). Another party "Raijor Dal" (People's Party) was floated by 70 organisations, led by peasants' body Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS).

The general perception is that the AJP, which is headed by former AASU leader Lurinjyoti Gogoi, will cut into the votes of another regional party Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), more than that of the BJP. The options for the Assamese sub-nationalists and people believing in regionalism increased with the birth of AJP and KMSS.

Shah spoke about 15th century saint-reformer Srimanta Sankardeva to the rhinos at Kaziranga National Park.

"Srimanta Sankardeva and (his disciple) Madhavdeva had united the people in Assam. They started a Bhakti Andolan in India and spread their message," the home minister said.

'PMJAY-SEHAT shows Modi's resolve for J&K'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AYUSHMAN Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir is another testament of PM Modi's resolve towards welfare of the newly created Union Territory, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said.

"The launch of PMJAY-SEHAT scheme is yet another testament of PM @NarendraModi's resolve towards the health security and welfare of every person of J&K who remains deprived of their rights for decades," Shah tweeted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the "SEHAT" health insurance scheme for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. The scheme will cover the remaining one crore population, which was not covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

A total of 264 hospitals—229 government and 35 private ones have been listed under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Shah said, adding that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be able to avail medical facilities up to ₹5 lakh free of cost.

Ecohing Shah, BJP national president J P Nadda said that Jammu and Kashmir has begun the march on the path of development after the scrapping of Article 370 and Article 35A.

"Since Independence, J&K remained neglected and deprived of growth, progress and development. Now, J&K has started walking on the new path of development, growth and prosperity after the scrapping of Article 370 and 35A from the state," Nadda said.

He said that the "Narendra Modi government is committed towards completing all pending development works and social initiatives in the UT". "The manner in which the people of J&K participated in the recently concluded District Development Council (DDC) elections in the state and made it successfull is highly commendable. I hope that the newly elected members of the DDCs will leave no stone unturned to fulfill and meet aspirations and hopes of the people of the UT," added Nadda.

BOOST FOR PEACE

53 OF NAGA REBEL FACTION SURRENDER

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN a major success for the Indian Army, the Assam Rifles, and the armed forces of Myanmar, a large number of the dissident NSCN Khaplang-Yung Aung's (K-YA) cadre have surrendered.

Army sources informed, Starson Lamkang, a Manipuri Naga from Lamkang tribe and an ex-leader of NSCN Khaplang-Yung Aung (K-YA) surrendered on 25 Dec 2020 along with 52 other cadres.

NSCN (K-YA) is the only Naga faction that has not observed a ceasefire with the security forces. It is not a part of the ongoing peace talks. NSCN (K), a major Naga Insurgent Group, abrogated the ceasefire with government of India in 2015.

A framework agreement was signed in 2015 between the Centre and the Isak-Muivah (I-M) faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim, or the NSCN (I-M).

"The Group, thereafter, was responsible for a series of violent incidents, extortion and recruitment in the North-east region and became the focus of operations by both the Indian Army and the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army)," the officer informed.

Talking about the on-ground modus operandi the officer said, "Relentless domination by the armed forces of the India-Myanmar border and the hinterland areas severely restricted the operating space for the insurgents.

Pandemic pain hurting workers from denotified tribes, wages head south

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

WORKERS from the denotified tribes faced a worsening of conditions in terms of wages, safety, and other conditions between July and September amid the Covid-19 pandemic, showed the data collated by the National Alliance Group for Denotified, Semi-Nomadic and Nomadic tribes and PRAXIS.

Of the 471 workers interviewed, 32 per cent reported a decline in their wages.

While 29 per cent said there was a poorer safety net at their jobs, 30 per cent reported an overall deterioration of their work conditions.

The highest number of workers interviewed was from Madhya Pradesh at 96, followed by Tamil Nadu at 85. Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Manipur, Odisha, and Uttarakhand are the other states where workers were interviewed.

Access to education among children belonging to denotified tribes remained poor between July to September, showed data collected from 217 locations across Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana.

Of the 217 locations, over 69 per cent reported that children did not have access to online education, and children in 61 per cent locations did not have access not offline education.

When it comes to having access to additional rations, people in over 20 per cent of the places did not receive them between July to September.

According to the Renke Commission report submitted in 2008, at least 23 per cent of the denotified communities surveyed had reported their families were in debt and 23 per cent of denotified tribes reported availability of BPL cards. It had also reiterated that denotified tribes constitute the most socially and economically backward sections of the population.

A previous survey by National Alliance Group for Denotified, Semi-Nomadic and Nomadic tribes and PRAXIS released in April showed people from denotified tribes of Nat, Bacchara and Bediya were being pushed in to debt owing during the coronavirus lockdown. Life for many, work had dried up for them during the lockdown.

LOCAL POWER STRUCTURES ADD TO THE WOES

The denotified tribal communities have been historically stigmatised and criminalised. Amid Covid-19, local power structures have kept them excluded and prevented outsiders from reaching out to them and showing them empathy, said the secretary for Nation Alliance Group for Denotified and Nomadic Tribes

FRAUD

Court orders FIR against IIT director

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Dehradun

ADDITIONAL Chief Judicial Magistrate court of Roorkee in Uttarakhand's Haridwar district has ordered the police to file an FIR against the director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee and other staffers over the alleged financial fraud in scholarships, central grants and construction money.

The order, dated December 23, 2020, came as the court was hearing a petition filed by a former IIT staffer Menpal Sharma. The petitioner alleged that IIT director Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi, Dean of IIT's Sponsored Research & Industrial Consultancy (SRIC) Manish Shrikhande, Assistant Registrar (SRIC) Jitendra Dimri, Dhiraj Upadhyay, junior assistant (SRIC) and Rajesh Kumar clerk (SRIC), committed financial fraud worth crores for over more than a decade by siphoning off the money of grants and other aids to their bank accounts.

Sonika Srivastava, incharge media cell of the institute, in a 8-point statement, saidthe Institute will continue to extend full cooperation to the police.

'Structural issues' may delay Ram temple construction

NIMATA BAJPAI @Lucknow

TECHNICAL issues have marred the preparations for the Ram temple's foundation-laying. Tests conducted by a team of experts have found that structural piles on which the temple has to rest are not of the desired quality.

The piles play a crucial role as they have to be laid under the ground and be made to bear the entire weight of the temple, said Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust's general secretary Champat Rai. He said a team of experts from IITs, the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, NIT Surat, Larson and Toubro and Tata Consulting Engineers are brainstorming a solution.

As per Champat Rai, when the place, where the sanctum sanctorum of the temple has to be brought up, was dug, the experts found the first hurdle in the form of loose sand at the construction site. "This is because of River Saryu flowing on the west side of the temple site," Rai said.

In fact, as per the design of the foundation drawn so far, about 1,200 concrete piles with a thickness of around 1 meter in diameter would be placed 20-40 meters below the ground. On these piles would rest plain cement concrete raft and then the temple thereon, according to the design finalised and submitted by the L&T.

"The test of the piles was conducted as per the drawing that had 1,200 pillars. Experts put some of these pillars around 125 feet below the ground level and then tested them after 28 days, the minimum required period for testing as per the standard engineering norms" Rai said.

A tremor situation was created to check the tenacity of the pillar. "The test piles did not give the desired results. The readings on the machines were much different from what was expected by the experts. This is why approval to commence the construction was held back," Rai said.

Marriage for conversion to be invalid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

HOME Minister Narottam Mishra said that the bill seeks to declare null and void any marriage conducted solely for conversion.

The bill allows voluntary conversion, provided that the district magistrate concerned is informed two months in advance. Complaints under the proposed law will have to be probed by an officer in rank of inspector or a sub-inspector.

Many of the bill's provisions resemble a similar law passed by the Yogi Adityanath's UP government earlier this year.

DISGRUNTLED

JD(U) in vindictive mood over Arunachal defections

RAJESH THAKUR @ Patna

THOUGH the JD(U) leaders have avoided clashing with the BJP over the development in Arunachal Pradesh, which saw six out of seven JD(U) MLAs defect to the BJP, sources said the party will not take it quietly.

Sources said the party is feeling disgruntled internally with the act shown by its NDA ally and will take appropriate action at a suitable time in the future.

"We are not in hurry to act in a vindictive way but we don't forget any kind of political treatment meted out to our party," a senior, preferring anonymity, said after the end of the first day of JD(U) two-day-long national executive meeting, on Saturday.

Meanwhile, sources said the development in Arunachal Pradesh was discussed in detail at the executive meeting of party leaders. Plans were also chalked out for the party's future.

Prior to Saturday's meeting, one of the senior leaders of JD(U) KC Tyagi has also expressed his displeasure against the Arunachal Pradesh development saying that it was not a friendly act on the part of BJP.

NCP leader Khadse gets Enforcement Directorate notice over old land case

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

EKNATH Khadse, who recently left the BJP and joined the NCP, on Saturday received an Enforcement Directorate (ED) notice in connection with a land case in Pune.

Khadse said earlier Income Tax and the state government-appointed zoning commission had also inquired about the Pune MIDC land deal. Former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had forced then revenue minister Khadse to resign from his cabinet over the Pune land deal citing a conflict of interest.

"That time also, we had submitted the documents. The land is bought by my wife and son in law, not by me. The land was purchased as per prevailing ready reckoner — government rate, therefore, nothing to hide there. I am ready to cooperate with ED and provide the documents as well," Khadse said. Eknath Khadse when he joined the NCP that time, in his speech, said if the BJP sends ED after him, then he will play the CD of BJP leaders.

"It is unfortunate that the BJP is misusing the central agencies against their political opponent. They have set the wrong precedent. People of Maharashtra will reply to them when the time arrives," said NCP minister Nawab Malik. Vijay Wadettiwar, Congress minister said that if Eknath Khadse gets the ED notice, then he will also get it. "BJP is targeting the OBC and Bahujan leaders. We are afraid of central agencies. We will give them befitting reply," Wadettiwar said.

Uttarakhand in talks to bring in a white tiger

Uttarakhand's tourism department is in talks with the government of neighbouring Madhya Pradesh to bring in a white tiger for the soon-to-be-built tiger safari park near the Corbett Tiger Reserve (pic). Tourism minister Satpal Maharaj said, "I am in talks with honorable Madhya Pradesh chief minister." To transfer a tiger from one state to another, various agencies, including National Tiger Conversation Authority and Central Zoo Authority, have to give their nods. The tiger safari is being planned in Pakhro range of the Corbett Tiger Reserve with estimated cost of `150 crore

DEHRADUN DIARY

VINEET UPADHYAY
Our correspondent in Dehradun
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Sharp rise in crimes against women

Crimes against women in Uttarakhand during the first 10 months of 2020 have surpassed that of 2018 and 2019, according to the state police department. Crimes against women including rape, murder, dowry killing, kidnapping and others stood at 2,359 in comparison to 2,273 recorded in 2019 and 2,279 in 2018. Police department said the increase followed strict instructions to cops to not avoid registering cases on crimes against women. The figures are likely to increase once the data for two pending months-November and December are released. A total of 452 cases of rape were registered till October 2020, in comparison to 450 in 2019 and 433 in 2018. There have been 30 cases of murder of women till October – a drop from 53 murders registered in 2019

PIL on farmers

Amid ongoing farm protests, Uttarakhand High Court (pic) on Tuesday issued a notice to the state government while hearing a public interest litigation alleging non-implementation of the 'Uttarakhand Hills Consolidation of Holdings and Land Reforms Act, 2016' despite persistent and prolong demand from the people. The government must respond to the notice within four weeks. weeks. The PIL was filed by Kewalanand Tiwari 'Fakeer', a resident of the Almora district. The petition alleges that the inaction and apathy on the part of the respondents has put a large number of farmers, workers and youths in "a state of occupational desperation". "Presently tens of thousands of landowners have left their villages in search of alternative livelihood," it said

ABAP to make list of 'fake saints'

Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad, the apex body of all the Akhadas has decided to prepare a list of "fake saints" and self-styled godmen and send it to Uttarakhand chief minister to prevent them from participation in Mahakumbh 2021 starting next month. Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad president Mahant Narendra Giri Maharaj said, "We are preparing a list of such groups and individuals who seek participation in religious grounds demanding certain facilities. The list will be shared directly with CM so that no "fake saints" will be allowed to enter the Kumbh zone

3 mn
Covid-19 cases Russia has recorded cumulatively amid a second wave battering the country

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	6	-3	SNY	Los Angeles	18	9	LC
Colombo	30	22	TDS	Melbourne	32	11	LC
Dhaka	24	11	SNY	Moscow	-5	-12	LC
Dubai	25	13	SNY	New York	4	1	SNY
Houston	21	14	LC	Singapore	32	24	LC
Istanbul	17	11	LC	Toronto	2	1	LC
London	10	1	LR	Washington	8	1	SNY

EU vax jabs begin today as UK virus strain spreads in continent

Each country deciding on its own who will get first shots, but they are all putting the most vulnerable first; Britain imposes movement curbs on 6 mn more people

PARIS

COUNTRIES around Europe were on Saturday preparing to roll out their first coronavirus vaccines even as a reputedly more contagious variant spreads around the world, forcing some nations back into lockdown.

First doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine arrived in hard-hit Italy, Spain and France on Saturday morning ready for distribution to elderly care facilities and hospital staff.

"We'll get our freedom back, we'll be able to embrace again," Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio said as he urged Italians to get the shot.

Vaccinations in all 27 European Union countries will begin on Sunday, after regulators approved the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on December 21.

However, Hungary began vaccinating hospital staff on Saturday itself, hours after receiving its first delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus jabs and ahead of most EU countries.

A new strain that emerged in Britain and spread rapidly has sent jitters through already overstretched health services as countries from Sweden to Japan have reported cases.

Austria began its third national lockdown on Saturday and millions also woke to tougher restrictions in Britain, where the vaccine rollout has already begun. France, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland are among the countries confirming that the new virus strain has reached their shores. More than 25 million total infections have been recorded in Europe. Across the world, people are being urged to respect social distancing guidelines. The UK itself passed 70,000 coronavirus deaths on Friday and is confronted with surging cases from the new strain. Six million people in the south and east were locked down from Saturday, making for a total of 24 million nationwide. Hungarian doctors and health care workers began getting vaccinated on Saturday with one of the continent's first shipments of the vaccine, upsetting the European Union's plans for a coordinated rollout of the first shots across the bloc on Sunday.

Left, men in PPE take a box containing Covid-19 vaccines from military personnel at an army-run storage facility in Romania. Above, the temperature indicator on a box with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine | AP, AFP

Patients with new strain not critically ill: Authorities

The first French case of the new coronavirus variant was found in a citizen resident in Britain who arrived from London on December 19, the French health ministry said late Friday.

They are asymptomatic and self-isolating at home in Tours in central France, and contact-tracing has taken place for the health professionals who treated him.

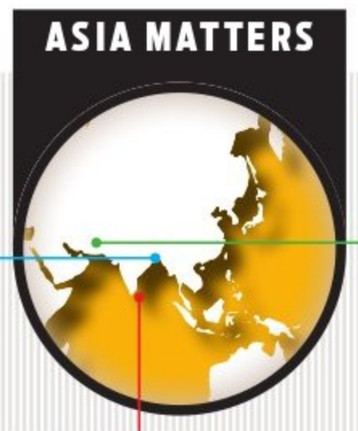
In Spain, four cases were confirmed in Madrid on Saturday.

The patients were "not seriously ill," the Madrid regional government's deputy health chief Antonio Zapatero said, adding that "there is no need for alarm".

The new strain of the virus, which experts fear is more contagious, prompted more than 50 countries to impose travel restrictions on the UK, where it first emerged.

Bottlenecks of thousands of trucks in southern England were ebbing Saturday, after France lifted a 48-hour entry ban for drivers with a negative test and kept Calais port open on Christmas Day. *Agencies*

ASIA MATTERS



BANGLADESH

Film director arrested over portrayal of police

A Bangladeshi film director has been arrested and charged after a scene depicting police harshly interrogating a rape victim and highlighting attitudes towards violence against women in the conservative nation sparked the ire of the force. The first half of "Nabab LLB", a fictional courtroom drama about rape and the treatment of victims starring megastar Shakib Khan, was released on a local streaming service in mid-Dec. The scene from the movie directed by Anonno Mamun went viral on social media last week. It angered the force, with Mamun and the actor who played the policeman, Shaheen Mridha, arrested on Friday. "The officer was interrogating her using very offensive gestures and obscene language which... will create negative perceptions about policing among the public," Dhaka Metropolitan Police said.

SRI LANKA

Resuming of commercial flights postponed

Sri Lanka has postponed the reopening of its airspace for commercial flights, scheduled for Saturday, to prevent the spread of a new variant of the coronavirus, officials said. The next date for resumption of flights will be announced later. The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL) had announced last week that it will resume international flights operations from December 26, eight months after they were closed in view of the COVID-19 outbreak. The postponement decision was taken in the wake of the new coronavirus strain,

AFGHANISTAN

4 dead in blasts that targeted policemen

A series of explosions hit the Afghan capital on Saturday morning, killing at least four people including two police officers, officials said. The deaths were caused by a sticky bomb attached to a police vehicle detonated in western Kabul, police spokesman Ferdaws Faramarz said. The explosion wounded two civilians. Two other police officers were wounded when a bomb attached to their car exploded earlier Saturday in southern Kabul, Faramarz said. Maooma Jafari, deputy spokeswoman for the health ministry, said that four corpses and four wounded people were taken to hospital following the two explosions. A third sticky bomb detonated in eastern Kabul but caused no casualties, he said. There were reports of at least two other blasts.

Firms pore over 1,246-page Brexit deal

BRUSSELS

THE European Union and the United Kingdom made public Saturday the vast agreement that is likely to govern future trade and cooperation between them from Jan. 1, setting the 27-nation bloc's relations with its former member country and neighbor on a new but far more distant footing.

EU ambassadors and lawmakers on both sides of the English Channel will now pore over the "EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement," which contains 1,246 pages of text. EU envoys are expected to meet on Monday to discuss the document. Businesses, so long left in the dark about what is in store for them, will also be trying to understand its implications.

Tariffs

The deal avoids tariffs or quotas on almost all goods produced in the UK and EU moving between the two sides.

British exports must comply with EU health and safety standards and conformity rules, and there are strict rules governing products made with parts originating outside the EU or UK.

Disputes

The UK refused any role for the EU's European Court of Justice, so disputes will be addressed by the WTO or ad hoc arbitration tribunals made up of three independent legal and trade experts, should consultations fail.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson | AP

That overall treaty will be overseen by a "Partnership Council" with representatives from both sides.

Various committees under that Council will supervise the different aspects of the treaty. There is also an option for MPs and MEPs to form a "Parliamentary Partnership Assembly".

Level playing field

The EU insisted on "level playing field" regulations to prevent British firms undercutting European rivals with lower labour, environmental or tax standards, or with unfair subsidies. The United Kingdom will set up an independent authority to decide competition law as a counterpart to that role held by the European Commission, with both upholding common principles. *Agencies*

India to become 3rd largest economy by 2030

India, which appears to have been pushed back to being the world's sixth biggest economy in 2020, will again overtake the UK to become the fifth largest in 2025 and race to the third spot by 2030, a think tank said on Saturday.

RUPEE WEAKNESS

The UK appears to have overtaken India again in 2020 as a result of the weakness of the rupee

GROWTH FORECASTS

The CEBR forecasts that the Indian economy will expand by 9 per cent in 2021 and by 7 per cent in 2022.

Growth will naturally slow as India becomes more economically developed, with the annual GDP growth expected to sink to 5.8 per cent in 2035. This growth trajectory will see India become the world's third largest economy by 2030, overtaking the UK in 2025, Germany in 2027 and Japan in 2030

Centre for Economics and Business Research

RANKING OF COUNTRIES' ECONOMIES

Ranking	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021	2025	2030	2035
United States	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
China	5	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Japan	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Germany	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
United Kingdom	4	6	5	5	5	6	6	6
India	13	9	7	6	6	5	3	3
France	6	5	6	7	7	7	7	7
Italy	7	8	8	8	8	10	13	14
Canada	8	11	10	9	9	8	9	12
S Korea	10	14	11	10	10	9	11	11
Russia	14	10	12	11	11	12	10	10
Brazil	11	7	9	12	13	11	8	9
Australia	15	13	13	13	12	13	14	15
Spain	9	12	14	14	14	15	15	13
Indonesia	24	18	17	15	15	14	12	8

Source: Centre for Economics and Business Research

RISE OF THE DRAGON

The UK-based think tank forecast that China will in 2028 overtake the US to become the world's biggest economy, five years earlier than previously estimated due to the contrasting recoveries of the two countries from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Swiss admit blundering after Covid first wave

GENEVA

SWITZERLAND'S health minister admitted Saturday that the government blundered in easing Covid-19 restrictions too far, resulting in some of Europe's fiercest infection rates during the pandemic's second wave.

Alain Berset said the Swiss approach put the emphasis on personal responsibility -- but accepted that it had not worked.

The virus will not vanish any time soon, he added, despite the roll-out of vaccinations.

In March, during the first wave of infections, Switzerland was not hit as hard by Covid-19 deaths and did not impose as strict a lockdown as some other European states. It then eased off its restrictions in stages.

From just three new cases recorded on June 1, infections rose slowly before rocketing in October, when cases, hospitalisations and deaths began doubling from week to week.

Asked about Switzerland's mistakes, Berset told national broadcaster SRF: "There were some. "In summer, we had the feeling that the worst was over. We were too loose. And then we were far too optimistic..." *AFP*

CRUCIAL ELECTION

Turnout among young voters to decide Georgia Senate runoffs

ATLANTA

PREETHI Gowrishankar was never really politically active before this year. But watching polarization increase during President Donald Trump's administration changed that.

The 27-year-old data scientist put on a face mask and stood in line on a recent sunny but cold day in Atlanta to cast a ballot early for Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock ahead of Georgia's Jan. 5 runoff elections that will determine control of the U.S. Senate.

"We've seen in the last four years what apathy leads to and where it can get us," she said. "So I've tried to make an effort to become a lot more informed of my choices and to make my voice heard."

Strong turnout among voters under 30 nationwide helped propel Democrat Joe Biden to victory over Trump in the November presidential election. Young voters were key to Biden's narrow win in Georgia, with a margin of just under 12,000 votes.

Now, with the national spotlight on Georgia's Senate races, the campaigns and voter mobilization groups are working furiously to make sure young voters turn out for the runoffs, which pit Ossoff and Warnock against Republican Senators David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler. A win by either Republican would maintain the Senate majority for the GOP, while a sweep by both Democrats would yield of 50-50 split in the chamber, with the tie-breaking vote going to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. *AP*

A visitor to a mall with a monster-themed festival strikes a humorous pose for photos in Beijing on Saturday | AP

Beijing residents told to stay put for holiday, Tokyo sees 949 cases

BEIJING

BEIJING has urged residents not to leave the city during the Lunar New Year holiday in Feb, implementing new restrictions after several coronavirus cases last week.

Two domestic cases were reported on Friday, a convenience store worker and a Hewlett Packard Enterprise employee. Another two asymptomatic cases were discovered in Beijing earlier in the week. Beijing is conducting testing on a limited scale in the neighborhoods and workplaces where the cases were found.

To contain any new outbreaks, the Beijing government canceled big gatherings such as sports events and temple fairs. It says applications will be strictly reviewed for any major events. Venues such as cinemas, libraries and museums have to operate at 75% capacity, the government said. It also called on companies not to arrange business trips outside the city and abroad. Lunar New Year is Feb. 12.

Variant confirmed

Japan's health ministry said Saturday it has confirmed a variant of the coronavirus that has spread across Britain in two Tokyo residents — the first two cases of the new variant found outside of Japanese airports.

Also Saturday, Tokyo confirmed 949 new cases of the coronavirus, a record high for the Japanese capital, as the country struggles with an upsurge that is spreading nationwide.

Japan will halt all new non-resident foreign arrivals coming from overseas from Monday until late January, Tokyo said Saturday. Japan currently restricts entry for foreigners from most countries over virus fears. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Turkey TV outlet shuts after 26 days

A private Turkish TV station that aired pro-Kurdish opposition views has shut down less than a month after launch, underscoring press freedom concerns in the country. Olay TV, owned by businessman and former minister Cavit Caglar, began broadcasting on Nov 30. Caglar said he pulled out of the venture because the editorial line veered too pro-Kurdish, while the editor claimed he had bowed to government pressure.

Hospital fire kills 7 Covid patients

A fire at a hospital north of Cairo on Saturday killed seven coronavirus patients, security and judicial sources said. The blaze in the intensive care unit of the hospital in Obour district, on the outskirts of Cairo, also injured five other people, the sources said. It was not immediately clear what caused the fire, the sources said. Egypt has so far registered 130,126 Covid-19 cases, including 7,309 fatalities.

INFAMOUS TRAITOR

Notorious Cold War double agent dies in Russia

MOSCOW

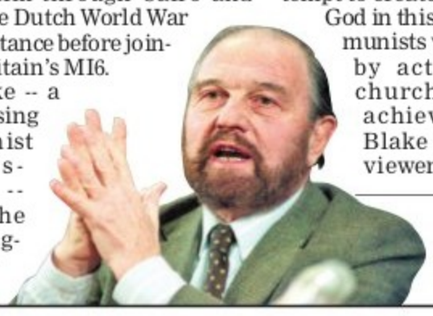
GEORGE BLAKE, who died Saturday in Moscow aged 98, was a British Cold War spy and Soviet double agent who spent half his life in Russia after dramatically escaping jail in London.

The last surviving member of a notorious generation of British defectors, Blake was seen as one of the West's most damaging traitors and claimed to have betrayed hundreds of agents to the KGB.

The bearded spy, however, trod a very different path to becoming a Soviet agent than that taken by the establishment insiders of the infamous Cambridge spy ring: Kim Philby, Donald Maclean and Anthony Burgess, all recruited while at the British city's prestigious university.

Born George Behar in the Netherlands in 1922 to a Dutch mother and Egyptian Jewish father, who was a British subject, he led a peripatetic youth that took him through Cairo and into the Dutch World War II resistance before joining Britain's MI6.

Blake -- a practising Calvinist Protestant -- said he willingly offered to work for the KGB after witnessing the bombing of innocent civilians by US forces during the Korean war, when he spent a harrowing period as a North Korean captive.



George Blake became disappointed with Russia eventually | AP

'The kingdom of God'

"I viewed communism as an attempt to create the kingdom of God in this world. The communists were trying to do by action what the church had tried to achieve by prayer," Blake told one interviewer. "I came to the conclusion I was no longer fighting on the right side."

After returning to London from captivity, Blake's first major coup for his new handlers was the exposure of a secret tunnel to spy on Soviet communications in East Berlin.

At the same time as he was becoming enmeshed ever deeper in his perilous work, handing over troves of secret info to the Russians, he married a woman named Gillian, who knew nothing of his double life, and they went on to have three sons. Soon he moved to Berlin where he claimed to have betrayed all of the "maybe 500, 600" agents operating for the British in Germany. *AFP*

$581.13 bn was India's forex reserve as of December 18, according to RBI data. This was an increase of $ 2.56 billion over the previous week

Govt mulls bad bank idea as NPA fears soar

Heavily criticised earlier, the proposal has gained some traction again after Covid-19

JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY @New Delhi

THE Finance Ministry is once again looking at a proposal to set up a ₹bad bank' as a way to address the problem of rising NPA levels in state-run banks. Top officials said the proposal is still being studied though both bankers and industry chambers are lobbying for it.

The proposal for the bank-which will function a bit differently from a normal asset reconstruction company-that is doing the rounds calls for setting it up with a share capital of around ₹10,000 crore. Its job will be to buy up bad loans from scheduled banks at book value.

Behind the proposal is the lurking fear that NPAs are set to go up once the after effects of the interest moratorium, which ended in August, starts telling on industry. With several sectors of the economy working at below normal capacity, the ability of many firms to repay loans are seen as severely challenged, especially those that have borne the brunt of Covid-related restrictions.

Though Indian banks have seen their gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) come down to 7.7 per cent in July-September as against 9.3 per cent for the same period last year, analysts say that this was because of the moratorium.

A report by Care Ratings says "the Gross NPAs would have been around 0.5 per cent to 0.6 per cent higher had these (moratorium) accounts been classified as NPAs." The rating agency said that with the moratorium offered by banks ending, the after-effect and impact on banks' balance sheets may be witnessed in the coming months of the financial year.

However, there are many detractors of the bad bank scheme. Several economists have argued that it would simply transfer the bad loan problem to another entity, leaving banks to continue making poor loan decisions in the future, sometimes under pressure from the political leadership.

Officials said that besides the Confederation of Indian Industry, which has called for multiple bad banks, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has also suggested such a measure in a paper co-authored with his former deputy Viral Acharya. The two had also suggested the privatization of a few select state-run banks and the dilution of the role of the department of financial services in Finance Ministry.

Moratorium dilemma

Gross NPAs would have been around 0.5-0.6% higher if moratorium were made NPAs

Care Ratings says the after-effect on banks' balance sheets will show in the coming months

Discoms limp through 2020 as debt takes wings

JONATHAN ANANDA @New Delhi

EVEN at the best of times, the power distribution sector has been among the weakest of links in India's economic lattice. And 2020, with its (hopefully) once-in-a-lifetime pandemic and a record economic contraction, hasn't been kind. Even before the pandemic struck with full force in March, power distribution companies (discoms) were in a world of trouble. In 2015, the Centre had launched the UDAY scheme to right a sector reeling under a mountain of debt. But five years later, its plight hadn't changed by much.

At the end of March 2020, discoms' overdues to power generators (gencos) stood at ₹96,007 crore—a whopping 56 per cent higher year-on-year. Over 80 per cent had been left unpaid for over 60 days.

But this wasn't exactly a bolt from the blue. Over financial year 2019-2020, delayed state subsidy payments and untamed distribution losses meant that discoms consistently paid gencos far less than billed. The situation was bad enough by January 2020 (overdues at ₹96,960 crore) that industry sources began speaking of an assistance package.

This eventually arrived in May, but as part of the Centre's Covid-19 relief. By then, April's nation-wide, near-total lockdown had eviscerated high-paying industrial demand and increased heavily-subsidsed household consumption. "It was the worst thing that could happen financially, because many (of discoms') problems come from delayed subsidy payments and distribution losses," noted a senior state discom executive. Dues to gencos soared to a massive ₹1.21 lakh crore at the end of June—60 per cent higher y-o-y.

Things have improved since, driven by improving demand and the liquidity package. First announced for ₹90,000 crore and later enhanced to ₹1.20 lakh crore, the relief is in the form of loans from state-run power sector financiers PFC and REC. But analysts note that this hasn't been very effective at paring debt, only at arresting further accumulation.

"Disbursements under the scheme have been very slow due to the reluctance or delay on the part of the state governments to adhere to the stringent norms," noted Emkay Global. So far, loans worth ₹1.18 lakh crore have been sanctioned, but only ₹31,100 crore has been disbursed. At the end of October, discoms owed gencos ₹1.26 lakh crore.

Going forward, subsidy payment delays from state governments are expected to remain a problem due to severely strained tax incomes. Another stress risk for discoms is the new notification of power consumer rights, which provide for penalties if they don't meet certain minimum standards—including 24x7 power supply. But executives fear that the penalties may just add to the sector's financial woes.

One hope on the horizon is the proposed direct benefit transfer system for subsidies. If implemented, this would make it mandatory for all consumers to pay discoms in full, with subsidies being transferred to consumers' bank accounts by state governments.

Centre allows additional borrowings worth ₹19,459 cr for six states that satisfy riders

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Ministry of finance on Saturday said that the state of Rajasthan has become eligible for an additional open market borrowing of ₹2,731 crore after the state successfully implemented ease of doing business measures. This grant takes the total additional borrowings allowed under this category to ₹19,459 crore.

"Rajasthan has now joined the five other States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, who have achieved this feat. On completion of reforms facilitating ease of doing business, these six States have been granted additional borrowing permission of ₹19,459 crore," the finance ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

On May 17, 2020, while announcing the Aatmanirbhar package, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that states were permitted to raise an additional 2 per cent over and above 3 per cent of the GSDP mandated under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

However, half of these of additional borrowing permissions would only be granted if the states completed reforms to facilitate ease of doing business. The first 0.5 per cent can be borrowed without any condition, while next 0.5 per cent would have to be made through the options offered by the Centre to meet the GST compensation shortfall. For the remaining 1 per cent, each of the four categories of reform measures would enable an additional borrowing og 0.25 per cent. This would make a total of ?2.14 lakh crore available for states which are able to meet all conditions.

The four identified citizen-centric areas for reforms were: the implementation of One Nation One Ration Card system, ease of doing business reforms, urban local body, or utility sector and power sector reforms

Till date, 10 states have implemented the One Nation One Ration Card system and six states have received borrowing permission after satisfying ease of doing business conditions.

Citizen-centric reform measures

Apart from Rajasthan's grant, additional borrowing permissions worth ₹50,253 crore has been issued to the states which have undertaken the various citizen-centric reforms, the government says.

NEW ROUND

Gold bond IX issue price ₹5,000 a gram

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE issue price for the next series of sovereign gold bonds has been fixed at ₹5,000 per gram of gold, the government said on Saturday.

"Sovereign Gold Bonds 2020-21 (Series IX) will be opened for the period December 28, 2020-January 01, 2021 with a settlement date January 05, 2021. The issue price during the subscription period shall be ₹5,000 (Rupees Five thousand only) per gram," said the Ministry of Finance in a statement.

The issue price for the previous Series VIII of gold bonds, that was open for subscription from November 9 to 13, 2020, had been fixed at ₹5,177 per gram of gold.

The Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has also decided to allow a discount of ₹50 (Rupees Fifty only) per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and if the payment is made through the digital mode. For such investors, the issue price of gold bonds will be ₹4,950 per gram of the precious metal.

The minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold and the maximum limit of subscription shall be 4 kg for individuals and HUFs, and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities per financial year.

GST NORMS

Only 0.37% of firms in 1% cash payment group

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE mandatory requirement of 1 per cent cash payment of a company's GST liability coming into effect from January 1 would be applicable to about 45,000 taxpayers, according to a report. This roughly translates to about 0.37 per cent of the total businesses registered in the GST system.

According to a PTI report, sources said that out of the total GST taxpayer base of 1.2 crore taxpayers, only around 4 lakh taxpayers have a monthly supply value greater than ₹50 lakh. Of these, only about 1.5 lakh pay less than 1 per cent of their GST liability in cash.

"Now, when the exclusions in the rule are applied, then around 1.05 lakh taxpayers get further excluded from these 1.5 lakh taxpayers. Thus, the rule would apply only to approx 40,000 to 45,000 taxpayers. This would be around 0.37 per cent of the total GST tax base of 1.2 crore taxpayers," sources said.

They added that rules have been amended to curb the menace of GST fake invoice frauds and fake firms.

India's job market on road to recovery

BISMAH MALIK @Bengalurui

India's job market is on a road to recovery with experts forecasting a major uptick in hirings, salary increments and promotion cycles next year. According to a recent Linkedin workforce index survey, which quizzed 1,000 workers every two weeks since April, the optimism in the job market has gradually returned.

The survey said that the job security score of employees stood at +54, up from +51 a month ago and +43 in September, on a scale of -100 to +100.

Anilkumar Singh, Head of Talent Acquisition–India, Capgemini Told this publication that as Covid-19 led businesses ramp up their digital transformation, the demand for skilled professionals in new age technologies is expected to rise. "The hiring outlook looks positive in coming year as businesses are transforming to be more agile,.. we will see a positive trend of demand in new age technologies like digital, cloud, data management and cyber security," Singh said.

Freshers are expected to have the edge. Freshersworld.com, recorded a 55% jump in freshers job postings, a 55% jump since September. There is also a 1.45-fold jump in new registrations indicating recovery in the interest to hire freshers. Kaushik Banerjee, VP and head, Freshersworld.com said that there has been a 300% increase in the hiring activity of freshers in the past 3 months.

EXPRESS READ

DLF rental arm to buy stake in NCR project

New Delhi: Realty major DLF's rental arm DCCDL has agreed to acquire the entire 52 per cent stake of US-based Hines in a premium commercial project in Gurugram for ₹780 crore. In a regulatory filing late last night, DLF informed that its joint venture firm DLF Cyber City Developers Ltd (DCCDL) has "entered into a securities purchase agreement with funds managed by Hines for acquisition of their stake in Fairleaf Real Estate, which owns 'One Horizon Center'."

Vi deploys 3G airwaves for Mumbai 4G biz

New Delhi: Vodafone Idea on Saturday said that it has started using 3G spectrum for 4G services in Mumbai and claimed that customers in the metro city will get higher data speed with the refarming of spectrum. Vodafone Idea has 5 megahertz of spectrum in 2100 Mhz band which was being used for 3G services. Vi users (Vodafone Idea) who are on 3G connection can get faster 4G experience when they use a 4G handset and a 4G SIM, the company said.

PRICIER TAG

Consumer appliance makers set to hike prices to offset high input costs

SESA SEN @New Delhi

AFTER a year of offering limited discounts and not-so-strong sales, companies are firming up plans to hike prices of consumer durables next year. According to industry estimates, prices of washing machines and air conditioners (ACs) may go up by 8-10 per cent, while refrigerators are set to be costlier by up to 15 per cent. Prices of televisions could rise by 9-20 per cent depending on size.

"One clear challenge ahead however is the hike in commodity prices mainly due to a global shortage of raw materials. As a result, brands would increase prices to the extent of 8-10 per cent in two phases, which may hamper the demand to a certain extent," said Kamal Nandi, President, CEAMA and Business Head & Executive Vice-President, Godrej Appliances. Cost of commodities such as copper, zinc, plastic, aluminum and steel rose by 20-25 per cent. Besides, logistics remains a challenge for some imported products since ocean and air freights are now higher and delays in port clearances are leading to further shortages, added Nandi.

An analysis of segments under IIP consumer durables showed that the consumer durables index saw a y-o-y fall of 39.1 per cent for the first half of FY21 in comparison to a fall of 5.1 per cent in H1FY19. "This decline reflects the impact of nationwide lockdown and consequent fall in consumer demand which started increasing gradually," say analysts at Care Ratings. While the festive season brought some cheer for an industry that lost 25 per cent of annual sales this year, a delay in supply chain restoration and cost inflation has forced companies to initiate price hikes to curb margin erosion.

"We expect prices to go up by 6-7 per cent in January and then further up to 10-11 per cent towards April-end," said Manish Sharma, President & CEO, Panasonic India.

A few brands have already revised prices. Blue Star, for instance, raised AC prices by up to 5 per cent from December 1 onward. Voltas and Bajaj Electricals, too, anticipate the need to hike prices to cover the eventual cost increases but is confident of sustaining margins ahead of the seasonally strong March quarter.

We expect prices to go up by 6-7 per cent in January and then further up to 10-11 per cent towards April-end

Manish Sharma, President & CEO, Panasonic India

Business & Beyond

NTPC-Vallur takes top 2 positions at AIMA, YMS Competition

Two teams from NTECL-Vallur emerged as winner and runners-up at the 4th edition of the All India Management Association (AIMA) Young Managers Simulation (YMS) (2020). The 1,500 MW Vallur Thermal Power Station located in Tamil Nadu is operated by NTPC Tamil Nadu Energy Company Limited (NTECL), an NTPC joint venture with TANGEDCO. Bebilson Mansingh, Manager (Operation), Prem Raj S, Manager (MM), and S V D R Sankar Kovvali, Dy. Manager (FM), comprised the winning team (NTECL-Vallur).

SER organises virtual cultural event for Railway employees

South Eastern Railway organised a virtual cultural event at SER Headquarters on December 23 to rejuvenate cultural activities amongst railway employees and their family members. SER said that the event's focus was to "help to develop socio-cultural competence" and included dance and song performances. The programme was streamed live online and was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Railways and other Zonal Railway employees.

NTPC wins CII-ITC Sustainability Awards

The country's largest power producer NTPC Ltd has been conferred the award for Excellence during the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) domain. NTPC has been honoured in the Corporate Excellence category and received a Commendation for Significant Achievement. The recognition was received by D K Patel, Director (HR) in the presence of Anurag Singh Thakur, MoS, Finance.

MoU signed between HUDCO and MoHUA

HUDCO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) setting key financial year-based targets. The MoU was signed between Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA and Kamran Rizvi, Chairman and Managing Director, HUDCO in the presence of M Nagaraj, Director (Corporate Planning) and D Guhan, Director (Finance).

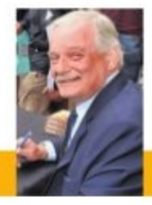
NBCC wins Global Green Building 2020 award

NBCC has won the The Energy And Environment Foundation Global Green Building 2020 Award in the Platinum category for the Mahatma Gandhi International Conference Centre project, built in Niger. Rajendra Chaudhari, Director (Commercial) NBCC, received the award.

New Executive Committee for PRSI-Chennai Chapter elected

Satyan C Bhatt, managing director, Prism Public Relations was elected as the Chairman of the PRSI, Chennai Chapter for a two-year term at the annual general meeting held on December 17. Six executive committee members were also elected: V Ramesh Kumar, Muthu Kumar Balu, Thomas T Abraham, V Kalidoss, Daniel T Dass, and N Raja, during the annual general meeting, an official statement from the body said.

Ex-England cricketer Robin Jackman no more



Former England cricketer Robin Jackman, who played four Test matches and 15 one-day internationals, has died, the International Cricket Council said. He was 75. Jackman took 1,402 wickets in a 399-game first-class career between 1966 and 1982. Following his retirement he became a commentator in South Africa, where he lived with his wife Yvonne.

LIFT AND UPLIFT

Bowlers give batsmen chance to redeem themselves at MCG by keeping Australia under 200 for second straight time

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

AFTER the horror of Adelaide, India needed a day like this. Bowlers had time and again bailed them out in recent years. On Saturday, sans two first-choice pacers, at the most daunting cauldron of all — Melbourne Cricket Ground — India's bowling unit showed their worth as Australia failed to touch 200 in successive first innings at home for the first time since 1984.

Unlike in some recent away wins — Johannesburg, Birmingham, Adelaide and Melbourne (all in 2018), Antigua and Jamaica (2019) — the Indians are not at full arsenal. Mohammed Shami has flown back with a fractured arm. Ishant Sharma, senior most pacer and Dr Watson of the pack, is building workload at home in Delhi. Master seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar is injured. This leaves India with Bumrah to share the responsibility with spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. For company they have Umesh Yadav, who would have warmed the bench had Shami, Ishant and Kumar were fit, and debutant Mohammed Siraj. This attack isn't the best India have had in recent times, but they know what to do.

On Day 1, Bumrah and Ashwin led the bowling, constantly on ears with the rest, complementing stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane. Having said he would lead by instinct, he walked the talk by bringing in Ashwin as first change after Bumrah's early break-through. "There were constant discussions going on between bowlers and the captain. The wicket changed after the first session. It got better to bat on in the second session and the moisture went away. We were just trying to communicate what kind of lines we wanted to bowl so that we could set the field accordingly. When there was less of help, we tried to change our lines," said Bumrah.

Like in the first Test, Australia were made to earn every run, as the off-spinner played the role of restrictor and aggressor at the same time. First up against Matthew Wade, who clearly doesn't trust his defence, Ashwin made him play a bad shot. To Steve Smith, he bowled with close-in fielders all around, especially around the leg. There was turn, but not the kind that would encourage Ashwin to attack him like he would in India. He is bowling in line with the stumps, challenging batsmen to work him around in a crowded field. In Adelaide, Smith lasted three balls off Ashwin. At MCG, just two, before being caught at backward short-leg.

Marnus Labuschange survived till lunch, but didn't look that convincing. And when one expected Rahane to begin with Bumrah and Ashwin in the second session, he threw the ball to Siraj and Yadav. Labuschagne and Travis Head forged a partnership and sensing trouble, Rahane brought back Bumrah, who obliged by removing Head in a four-over spell which helped Siraj reflect on his first spell and make corrections.

Siraj isn't express, but has the heart for long spells. India's bowling coach Bharathi Arun saw it first hand in 2016-17, when he coached Hyderabad. That season he ended up with 41 wickets, following which he was fast-tracked into the A team set-up and exposure tours. As he came in for a second spell, Siraj looked far more in control with a semi-old ball. With a natural angle that aides reverse-swing, the sight of Labuschagne could have been comforting for him. He had dismissed him twice in A games and on Test debut, nailed him for his first scalp. By the time Ashwin returned to remove Tim Paine, India were in control with the ball.

Over to the batsmen to make it count.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA 1ST INNINGS: Burns c Pant b Bumrah 0, Wade c Jadeja b Ashwin 30, Labuschagne c Gill b Siraj 48, Smith c Pujara b Ashwin 0, Head c Rahane b Bumrah 38, Green lbw Siraj 12, Paine c Vihari b Ashwin 13, Starc c Siraj b Bumrah 7, Cummins c Siraj b Jadeja 9, Lyon lbw Bumrah 20, Hazlewood (not out) 4, **Extras** (b10, nb3, w1) **14**, **Total** (10 wickets, 72.3 overs) **195. FOW:** 1-10, 2-35, 3-38, 4-124, 5-134, 6-155, 7-155, 8-164, 9-191. **Bowling:** Bumrah 16-4-56-4, Umesh 12-2-39-0, Ashwin 24-7-35-3, Jadeja 5.3-1-15-1, Siraj 15-4-40-2.

INDIA 1ST INNINGS: Agarwal lbw Starc 0, Gill (batting) 28, Pujara (batting) 7, **Extras** (nb1) 1, **Total** (one wicket, 11 overs) **36. FOW:** 0-1 **Bowling:** Starc 4-2-14-1, Cummins 4-1-14-0, Hazlewood 2-0-2-0, Lyon 1-0-6-0.

IN MEMORY OF JONES

The baggy green cap and bat of former Australia batsman Dean Jones, who died in September, lean against the stumps in remembrance during tea break, on Day 1 of the second Test between Australia and India in Melbourne | AFP

Vikas leaner, meaner after new-found endurance

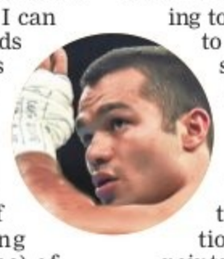
ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

VETERAN boxer Vikas Krishan Yadav is back in familiar surroundings. And he's leaner and meaner. Confidence is evident in the Haryana man's voice as he spoke about his rich experience in the US, where the 2011 World Championships bronze medallist had trained for almost two months.

Currently under quarantine in Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) in Vijayanagar, the three-time Olympian said that he has made giant strides when it comes to endurance — something the 28-year-old conceded that he was lacking in recent times — and is eager to apply what he has learnt during the upcoming national camp and future tournaments. Excerpts...

How was your experience in the US?

I had a fruitful training. My endurance has improved immensely. Now, three rounds are not a big deal for me. I can fight around eight rounds easily. Endurance was something that was lacking in my game in recent times. If I'm tired, nobody will be able to see that on my face. I did plenty of running, sprints, long rounds (15/20 minutes) of bag training.



On strengthening defence

The other thing that I had wanted to improve was defence and there has been a significant improvement on that aspect as well. My immediate target is to take least number of punches while sparring during the national camp. And I want to apply the same during competitions in future. I know Olympics is a different level and it is going to be hard. But I want to work on the defensive side of my game and improve as much as possible.

If I can improve my defence, it will be easy to play counter and move to positions where I can fetch points.

On mixing with pro US boxers

I trained with some of the top professionals out there. US boxing is different from ours; they are more inclined towards professional boxing, so they are always looking to hurt you. We (Indians) are more focussed on scoring points. So it was good to see that side of the game and learn. I defended well against those boxers and I'm more confident now. I feel I can do much better against amateur boxers.

On impressing self

I wanted to ensure that I come back as a different person. I wanted everyone to take notice that I have improved. Now that I'm back at IIS, I just want to show what I have learnt, that I'm a more composed pugilist and can keep up during long gruelling bouts. This is not to impress others, for myself.

On feeling homesick in US

Coach (Ronald Simms) was always there. I was feeling a little homesick so my friend Neeraj Goyat joined me last month.

SC EB rally to hold CFC 2-2

PTI @ Vasco

GERMAN striker Matti Steinmann struck twice to help SC East Bengal pull off a 2-2 draw against two-time champions Chennaiyin FC in an Indian Super League match on Saturday.

It was East Bengal's third draw, to go with four defeats, as victory eluded them again. Chennaiyin led 1-0 at half-time thanks to a 13th-minute strike from Lallianzuala Chhangte before the 25-year old Steinmann equalised in the 59th minute.

CFC went ahead again in the 64th minute through Rahim Ali before East Bengal restored parity when Steinmann scored his second of the game. The scoreline remained 2-2 after five minutes of added-on time.

With two wins, two losses and three draws, CFC moved up to seventh spot with nine points. East Bengal are 10th place with just three points.

In Sunday's action, Hyderabad FC will lock horns against Kerala Blasters.

EXPRESS READ

ICC Awards of Decade on December 28

CHENNAI: The ICC Awards of the Decade will be presented on December 28 at a programme beginning at 2 pm IST. The best male player will receive the Sir Garfield Sobers Award. The best female player will receive the Rachel Heyhoe-Flint Award. Fan votes make up 10% of the voting, while votes from a panel of players, journalists, broadcasters make up the remaining 90%. Fans provide 100% of the votes for the Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade. More than 1.5 million fans have cast their votes. MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami are the Indian nominees in various categories. Kohli has been nominated in four categories. Winners of individual awards will receive unique artwork created in a collaboration between ICC, Mumbai-based studio Kulture Shop and Indian artist Pratap Chalke. The Heyhoe-Flint and Sobers award winners get hand-painted artwork bats.

Karnataka T20 team selection today

BENGALURU: Matches of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament in Bengaluru will be held in Alur 1, 2 and 3 grounds. The Karnataka team will be selected on Sunday. The tournament will be played from January 10-31. Karnataka are in Elite Group A with J&K, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Railways and Tripura. Only the topper is assured of progress.

Conflict complaint against Kuruvilla

MUMBAI: A complaint alleging conflict of interest has been filed against new national selector Abey Kuruvilla by former Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association life member Sanjeev Gupta. Gupta has alleged that Kuruvilla's conflict of interest centres around his twin roles of being the Sports Director of the DY Patil Academy and a national selector.

Vardy denies United victory

AFP @ Leicester

LEICESTER and Manchester United missed the chance to put pressure on Liverpool at the top of the Premier League as the battle between second and third ended 2-2 at the King Power on Saturday.

United twice failed to hold onto the lead given to them by Marcus Rashford and Bruno Fernandes. Harvey Barnes's thunderous strike levelled before half-time and Jamie Vardy's predatory instincts kept Leicester one point and one place above United in the table as his shot deflected in off Tuanzebe five minutes from time.

Liverpool's lead at the top of the table now stands at three points and Jurgen Klopp's men can move further clear when they host West Brom at Anfield on Sunday. "One point is not the worst result for us but we are disappointed we didn't get away with three," said United's Norwegian boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after the game.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, our client **SMT. V.A. KANNAMMAI,** had lost the original Sale deed dated 08-06-1995, Document No.2273/1995-96 in respect of property bearing Site No.10, situated at Horamavu Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, while Taking Xerox Copy of the Same at near Banasawadi Sub Registrar Office. If anybody found the said document please contact this No.9844155041, 9741599976.

V. S. RAI & ASSOCIATES, LAW FIRM.
#23, Venkatadri 2nd Floor, 6th Main, 5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27. Mob: 98441 55041

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that one of our clients proposes to purchase the property described in the Schedule herein from **1. MRS. PALLAVI JOIS K S** and **2. MR. GURU P RAJARAM** which they have purchased from Mr. B M Karunesh, vide registered Sale Deed on 6th September, 2001 registered as Document No. 6754/2001-02 and registered with the office of Sub Registrar Krishnarajpura, Bangalore. Persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any rights in the below mentioned property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with the supporting documentary evidence within 15 days from the date of this publication. Claim received thereafter will not be binding on our client and client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential Plot bearing No. 336 in "PALM MEADOWS-II" comprised in property bearing Mahadevapura Municipal Council Khata No. 4, Property bearing Sy.No. 8/1 forming a portion of "PALM MEADOWS-II" situated at R Narayanaoura Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 111078.0Sq. ft; measuring to the East 40 feet, West 40 feet, North 60 feet, South 60 feet and totally measuring 2400 Sq. Ft. consisting of Ground Floor and First Floor containing Living, Dining and 3 Bedrooms having total built-up area of 1703 Sq. Ft equipped with Flooring, sanitary, electrical wiring and other facilities and bounded by:

East by: Property bearing Sl. No. 303; **West by:** Road; **North by:** Property bearing No. 337 and **South by:** Property bearing Sl. No. 335

Adv. **Anupam Agarwal**
No. 1211, 12th Floor, B Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
E-mail: anupam@rslegal.in M:97406 45762
Date: 27/12/2020 Place: Bangalore

QuoteExpress

PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES

ROBERT H SCHULLER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, our client **SRI.LOKESH S., @ S.LOKESH** had lost the original Sale deed dated 31-10-1983, Document No.2958/1983-84 in respect of property bearing Site No.17, New No.16, situated at Avalahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, while taking Xerox copy of the same near Banashankari Bus Stand. If anybody found the said document please contact this No. 9844155041, 9448687338.

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No.23,"Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

My clients have negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from **1) Sri R. Nagabhushana @ Nagabhushana Ramakrishnasastry,** aged about 62 years, Son of late Dr. R.S. Ramakrishna Sastry, **2) Sri R. Guruprasad @ Guruprasad .R,** aged about 59 years, Son of late Dr. R.S. Ramakrishnasastry, **3) Sri R. Srinath @ Srinath Ramakrishnasastry,** aged about 56 years, Son of late Dr. R.S. Ramakrishna Sastry, all residing at No. 537, 20th Main Road, 32nd E Cross, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041, who have represented that they are having clear and marketable title over the Schedule Property.

Any person/s claiming to have any right or claim or objection, may lodge their objections or claim along with supporting documents with the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

If no such objection or claims is received within the prescribed time, my clients will proceed to complete the transaction. If any objection and claim is lodged beyond the prescribed period it shall not be reckoned and it shall be deemed that all objections and claims by whomsoever are waived.

CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Immovable Residential house bearing Municipal No. 44 (Old No. 537, 20th Main Road, 32nd E Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041 in Ward No. 58-Jayanagar (earlier Site bearing No. 537, Old Municipal Khatha No. 537, New No. 44, 44/1, 44/2, situated at 20th Main Road, 32nd E Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041) consisting of Ground Floor portion bearing Municipal No.44 (Old No.537) having PID No. 58-24-44 , First Floor portion bearing Municipal No.44/1 (Old No.537) having PID No.58-24-44/1 and Second Floor portion of property bearing Municipal No.44/2 (Old No.537) having PID No.58-24-44/2 Measuring East to West 59.6 Feet, North to South 35 Feet, totally measuring 2086 Square Feet and bounded on as follows:

East by : Site No.592
West by : Road
North by : Road
South by : Site No.538

B. Srinivas, Advocate
"SUNDERA RAMA"
No. 230, 39th 'C' Cross,
9th Main, 5th Block, Jayanagar,
Bangalore-560041 9900148162
srinivasadvocate@gmail.com
Place: Bangalore Date: 23-12-2020

MELIORA Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd.,
503, May Fair Gardens, Road No.12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034.

E-AUCTION POSTPONEMENT NOTIFICATION

Please refer to our E-Auction Sale Notice published on **25-11-2020 in "THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS" Bangalore Edition,** in respect of **M/s Nehal Creations.** The scheduled E-Auction which is to be held on **30-12-2020,** is hereby postponed to **29-01-2021.**

The intending bidders can now submit their bids on or before **27-01-2021 by 5.00 PM** for the property mentioned under **S.No.1** of the said Sale Notice.

All other terms and conditions stated in the said Sale Notice shall remain unchanged.

For details contact: + 91 90300 98574.

Date : 26.12.2020 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : Hyderabad Meliora Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd.,

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysore
Yelwal, Mysuru - 571130, Telephone:0821-2406510/6523 Fax:0821-2403064

NOTICE INVITING e- TENDER

The Chief Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysore invites on behalf of the President of India, online Expression of Interest tender from experienced EPC Contractors with sound financial & technical capacity for the following work(s):

No.	Description	Details
1.	Tender Reference No.	**BARC/SMF/CFMF/EPC/2020/2**
2.	Name of work	Expression of Interest Cum pre qualification for setting up of Heat treatment line of process facility at SMF project site, Challakere through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode of works contract.
3.	Estimated Cost	**Rs. 70 Crores** (Rupees Seventy Crores only)
4.	Period of Completion	**Twenty Four (24) Months**
6.	Tender Sale Period	**28.12.2020 (11:00 Hrs.) to 19.01.2021 upto 15.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from web site **www.tenderwizard.com/dae**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
For & on behalf of the President of India

National Health Mission
Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society
DH&FW, 1st Floor, Arogya Soudha,
Magadi Road, Bengaluru 560 023.
Phone No: 080-22341985, Email id: caonrhmkar@gmail.com

Notification No. NHM/DD/IMM/56/2019-20 Date: 24.12.2020

Tender Notification through e-Procurement
Supply of Indelible Marker Pens for Pulse Polio Programme

KSHFWS invites tender from manufacturers with necessary documents. The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. The tender document can be downloaded through "e-procurement portal" from **26.12.2020, 11:30** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is **02.01.2021 on or before 17:30 hrs.**

Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 10:00 to 17:30 hrs.

Sd/- Project Director
RCH

DIPR/DDU/Bronze/2180/2020-21

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Regional Office, Bangalore Rural, Spencer Tower,MG road, Bangalore-560001

E- AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8 (6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the following terms and conditions. E-Auction arranged by the service provider M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd, Through the Website **www.indianbankseauction.com Contact Person Mr Pakhare DD/ Mr Ramesh T H, Contact no. 9480691777, 8553643144; email: eauction@ccsl.co.in.**

1)Name of the Borrower/Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch & Secured Creditor	1)Secured Debt outstanding 2)Reserve Price & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)Amount	1)Last Date of Deposit of EMD & KYC Document 2)EMD Account No. 3)IFSC Code 4)Bid Factor	1)Date of Auction 2)Time of Auction 3)Date & Time of Inspection
Branch: Jalahalli Branch (1). **Sri Teja Concrete Bricks** #365/3 Near Muneswara Temple Bagalur Jalahobli Bangalore 562149, Borrower **(2).K Venkata Reddy Prop, S R Enterprises** 4th Main K G Halli Bangalore 560015, Borrower **(3). Krishna Kumari, Sri Teja Engineer Works** K G Halli Bangalore 560013, Guarantor.	**1)Rs. 51.81 lakhs** Plus further Interest & Charges from **01.12.2020** till date of realization in full. **2)Reserve Price: Rs.135.00 lacs and EMD: Rs 13.50 lacs**	**1).28.01.2021 up to 4:00 p.m 2)Ac No.04443170000033 3)SYNB0000444 4)Rs.1,50,000/-**	**1) 29.01.2021 2) 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM 3) 15.01.2021 to 27.01.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM.**
Description of Property- Residential site and building having Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor at Door No.25 & 26, Sy.No.50, CMC Katha No.89, 8th Main, Kalanagar, Kammagondanahalli, Jalahalli West, Bangalore -560015, measuring East to West : 40 ft. and North to South : 60 ft. = Total = 2400 sft, Boundaries: East : Site No.27, West: 25 ft. Road, North:25 ft. Road, South:Private Property.			
Branch: JALAHALLI BRANCH (1).**Hemas Dwelling** Flat No.302 Iv Block Rmv Clusters Devinagar Bangalore 560094 **(2).Samarjit Biswas** Flat No.302 Iv Block Rmv Clusters Devinagar Bangalore 560094 **(3).Hemamalini Biswas** No 302 4th Block R M V Clusters Devinagar Lottegollahalli Bangalore 5600013	**1). Rs. 15.58 lakhs** Plus further Interest & Charges from **01.12.2020** till date of realization in full. **2).Reserve Price: Rs.37.50 lacs and EMD: Rs 3.75 lacs**	**1).28.01.2021 up to 4:00 p.m 2)Ac No.04443170000033 3)SYNB0000444 4)Rs.50,000/-**	**1) 29.01.2021 2) 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM 3) 15.01.2021 to 27.01.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM.**
Description of Property- "RMV CLUSTERS APARTMENT", Flat No: 302, 3rd Block, 4th Floor, Sy. No.10/11-A, Devinagar Main Road, Lottegollahalli, Bengaluru-560 094. Area : Super Built Up of Flat-968.57 SFT, UDS-303.66 SFT, Boundaries: On the North by : Private Property, On the South by : RMV Clusters Phase-I & Private Property, On the East by : Private Property, On the West by : Approach Road			
Branch: Jalahalli Branch (1). **Srinivasulu K** No 51 Kalanagar K G Halli Bangalore 560015 **(2). C Venkateshwaralu, Prop Sri Annapurna Industries** Kalanagar Jalahalli Jalahalli West Bangalore 560015	**1). Rs. 11.32 lakhs** Plus further Interest & Charges from **01.12.2020** till date of realization in full. **2).Reserve Price: Rs.68.00 lacs and EMD: Rs 6.80 lacs**	**1).28.01.2021 up to 4:00 p.m 2)Ac No.04443170000033 3)SYNB0000444 4)Rs.1,00,000/-**	**1) 29.01.2021 2) 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM 3) 15.01.2021 to 27.01.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM.**
Description of Property- Residential site and building having Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor, Ground Floor Industry and First and Second Floor – Residential Units at No.35, Venkataramana Industries, 12th Cross, Kalanagar, Kammagondanahalli, Jalahalli West, Bangalore -560015, measuring East to West : 40 ft. and North to South : 30 ft. = Total = 1200 sft. Boundaries: East : Site No.34, West: Balance portion of No.35, North: Site No.15, South: Road (12th Cross).			
Branch: K R Puram Branch (1).**Narayanaswamy K C** S O Chikkanna No 157 Kithaganoor Colony K R Puram Bangalore 5600036 **(2).Shasikala** W/o Narayanaswamy K C No 157 Kithingnoor Colony K R Puram Post Bangalore 560036.	**1)Rs. 34.04 lakhs** Plus further Interest & Charges from **01.12.2020** till date of realization in full. **2)Reserve Price: Rs.31.00 lacs and EMD: Rs 3.10 lacs**	**1).28.01.2021 up to 4:00 p.m 2)Ac No.04203170000011 3)SYNB0000420 4)Rs.25,000/-**	**1) 29.01.2021 2) 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM 3) 15.01.2021 to 27.01.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM.**
Description of Property- Residential site bearing Katha No.241/5/3B3, New Ward No.6, Block No.9, Road No.589, Mathur Village, Doddaballapura, Bangalore Rural District – 561 205, measuring East to West : 76 ft. and North to South : 43 ft. = Total = 3268 ft. Boundaries: East : Lingappa's property, West: Jademuniyappa's property, North: Private Property, South: 10ft. wide road.			
Branch: Frazer Town Branch (1). **Printmedia.com** No 3 1st Floor Wheelers Road Frazer Town Bangalore 560005 **(2).John Nesakumar** S/o A Iruthayam No 36 Haines Road Frazer Town Bangalore 560005	**1)Rs. 150.75 lakhs** Plus further Interest & Charges from **01.12.2020** till date of realization in full. **2)Reserve Price: Rs.162.00 lacs and EMD: Rs 16.20 lacs**	**1).28.01.2021 up to 4:00 p.m 2)Ac No.0407295000001 3)CNRB0000407 4)Rs.1,50,000.00**	**1) 29.01.2021 2) 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM 3) 15.01.2021 to 27.01.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM.**
Description of Property- Property bearing Flat No.TF-2, Third Floor, "NASCO GULMOHAR EAST", Haines Road, Frazer Town, Ward No.91, Bangalore – 560 005. Area: Undivided Share – 646.43 sft, Super Built up Area – 2329.49 sft, Carpet Area – 1747.11 sft. Boundaries: East : Haines Road and measuring on that side 46' 9", West:Private property and measuring on that side 17'+26'6", North: Private property and measuring on that side 31'3"(W to E)+9'6"(S to N)+34'6" (W to E)+3'9" (S to N)+09'(W to E)+3'9" (N to S)++15'(W to E); South: Private Property and measuring on that side 105'.			
Branch: Vidyaranyapuram Branch (1). **Krishnan S** No 992 4 Th Cross 6 Th Block H M T Layout Vidyaranyapura Bangalore 560097 **(2). Bhuvana Krishnan** W/o Late S Krishnan No 992 4 Th Cross 6 Th Block H M T Lay Out Vidyaranyapura Post Bangalore 560097	**1)Rs. 29.73 lakhs** Plus further Interest & Charges from **01.12.2020** till date of realization in full. **2)Reserve Price: Rs.201.00 lacs and EMD: Rs 20.10 lacs**	**1).28.01.2021 up to 4:00 p.m 2)Ac No.04813170000010 3)SYNB0000481 4)Rs.2,00,000.00**	**1) 29.01.2021 2) 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM 3) 15.01.2021 to 27.01.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM.**
Description of Property- Residential 3 BHK Building bearing Site No.992, Behind Sri Swamy Narayana Apartment, 4th Cross, 7th Block, HMT Layout, Ward No.09, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore – 560 097. Area : 2504.25 sft. Boundaries: East : Site No.991, West:Site No.993, North:Road (4th Cross), South: Site No.989.			
Branch: Sanjaynagar Branch (1).**S. M. Madhu** No 59/1 1st Floor 1st Main Keb Layout Sanjaynagar Bangalore 560094 **(2).Uma Madhu** No 59/1, 1st Floor 1st Main Keb Layout Sanjaynagar Bangalore 560094 **(3).Hari A** R/o 34 II nd Cross Bhadrappa Layout Bangalore 5600094	**1)Rs. 22.43 lakhs** Plus further Interest & Charges from **01.12.2020** till date of realization in full. **2)Reserve Price: Rs.50.00 lacs and EMD: Rs 5.10 lacs**	**1).28.01.2021 up to 4:00 p.m 2)Ac No.04833170000032 3)SYNB0000483 4)Rs.50,000.00**	**1) 29.01.2021 2) 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM 3) 15.01.2021 to 27.01.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM.**
Description of Property- Residential 2 BHK Flat bearing No.S-2, Second Floor, "GITA ELEGANCE", Site No.28, KEB Layout, Sanjaynagar, Sanjaynagar Main Road, Bangalore – 560 094, Undivided Share : 267.97 sft, Built up Area : 870.00 sft, Boundaries: East : Property No.29, West: Property No.27, North: Road, South : Amarjyothi Layout.			

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, Please log on to our Website www.canarabank.com under "E-Auction" or contact the respective branches.

Date : 24.12.2020 Sd/- Authorised officer
Place: Bengaluru Canara Bank

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Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Tokyo has confirmed 949 new cases of the coronavirus, a new high for the Japanese capital, as the country struggles with an upsurge that is spreading nationwide. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government said on Saturday that the additional cases bring the prefectural total to 55,851.

EXFILE • ENVIRONMENT

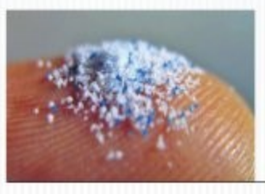
A THREAT TO SEAFOOD SAFETY

92%
MICROPLASTICS ACCOUNT FOR 92% OF PLASTIC DEBRIS ON THE OCEAN'S SURFACE, ACCORDING TO A 2018 STUDY

Contamination of the marine environment by microplastics is currently recognised as a global threat of great concern. A recent study has revealed that mussels, oysters and scallops have the highest levels of microplastic contamination among seafood. A look at how it affects human health

STUDY

The research — led by people at Hull York Medical School and the University of Hull — looked at more than 50 studies between 2014 and 2020 to investigate the levels of microplastic contamination globally in fish and shellfish. Scientists are still trying to understand the impact it has on humans consuming fish and shellfish contaminated with these tiny particles of waste plastic, which finds its ways into waterways and oceans through waste mismanagement.



MICROPLASTIC LEVEL

The study shows the content was **0-10.5 microplastics per gram (MPs/g)** in molluscs, **0.1-8.6 MPs/g in** crustaceans, **0-2.9 MPs/g** in fish.

IMPLICATIONS FOR HUMAN HEALTH

Human activity has led to microplastic contamination throughout the marine environment. Because microplastics are associated with chemicals from manufacturing and that sorb from the surrounding environment, there is concern regarding physical and chemical toxicity. Microplastics in the water we drink and the air we breathe can also hit humans directly. Evidence regarding microplastic toxicity and epidemiology is emerging.

LARGEST CONSUMERS

The latest consumption data in the research shows China, Australia, Canada, Japan and the US are amongst the largest consumers of molluscs, followed by Europe and the UK. Also, it was found that molluscs collected off the coasts of Asia were the most heavily contaminated, with researchers suggesting that these areas are more heavily polluted by plastic.

HOW ANIMALS ARE AFFECTED

Microplastics block digestive tracts, diminish the urge to eat, and alter feeding behaviour, all of which reduce growth and reproductive output. With the species' stomachs stuffed with plastic, some species starve and die.

Microplastics are small enough to be ingested by sea animals, including those that end up on our plates

ALARMING SIGNS

155-265MN METRIC

Plastic waste generated worldwide is expected to triple to 155-265 million metric tonnes per year by 2060. Once the plastic finds its way into oceans, lakes and rivers it has the potential to end up as microplastic inside shellfish, fish and marine mammals.

DID YOU KNOW?

Microplastics can come from a variety of sources including larger plastic pieces that have broken apart, resin pellets used for plastic manufacturing, or in the form of microbeads, which are small, manufactured plastic beads used in health and beauty products.

No-one yet fully understands the full impact of microplastics on the human body, but early evidence from other studies suggest they do cause harm. A critical step in understanding the full impact on human consumption is in first fully establishing what levels of microplastics humans are ingesting. We can start to do this by looking at how much seafood and fish is eaten and measuring the amount of MPs in these creatures

Study author Evangelos Danopoulos, a postgraduate student at Hull York Medical School

Antibody drug that may give instant immunity

Scientists in UK begin trial of new treatment with potential to provide immediate protection against coronavirus

HEALTH

LONDON: Scientists in the UK have begun trials of innovative antibody drug treatments that they hope could provide instant protection against Covid-19. The University College London Hospitals NHS Trust (UCLH) said that the researchers in the Storm Chase study believe a Long Acting AntiBody (LAAB) known as AZD7442, developed by AstraZeneca, may offer immediate and long-term protection to people who have been recently exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and prevent them developing Covid-19.

The study, led by UCLH virologist Dr Catherine Houlihan, recruited the first participant in the world to the study earlier this month and has recruited 10 participants since then. "We know that this antibody combination can neutralise the virus, so we hope to find that giving this treatment via injection can lead to immediate protection against the development of Covid-19 in people who have been exposed 'when it would be too late to offer a vaccine," said Houlihan.

UCLH said its new vaccine research centre is running two clinical trials testing a LAAB combination treatment to protect against Covid-19. The second Provent study is looking at the use of AZD7442 in people who may not respond to vaccination, for instance where someone has a compromised immune system or are at increased risk of Covid-19 infection due to factors such as age and existing conditions.

We know that this antibody combination can neutralise the virus, so we hope to find that giving this treatment via injection can lead to immediate protection against the development of Covid-19

Virologist Dr Catherine Houlihan

"We will be recruiting people who are older or in long-term care, and who have conditions such as cancer and HIV which may affect the ability of their immune system to respond to a vaccine.

"We want to reassure anyone for whom a vaccine may not work that we can offer an alternative which is just as protective," said Dr Nicky Longley, UCLH infectious diseases consultant leading the Provent study.

Antibodies are protein molecules that the body produces to help fight infections. Monoclonal antibodies are artificially produced in a laboratory and designed as possible medical treatments. They are designed to be injected directly into the body, unlike vaccines which 'train' the immune system itself to produce antibodies.

"These two clinical trials are an important addition to testing new therapeutic approaches, as antibody treatments may offer an alternative to patient groups who cannot benefit from a vaccine, such as immunocompromised patients," said professor Stephen Powis, the medical director of National Health Service (NHS) England.

The LAABs have been engineered with AstraZeneca's "proprietary" half-life extension technology to increase the durability of the therapy for six to 12 months following a single administration. The combination of two LAABs is also designed to reduce the risk of resistance developed by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19.

"AZD7442 has the potential to be an important preventative and therapeutic medicine against Covid-19, focusing on the most vulnerable patients. This work complements our vaccine development programme," said Mene Pangalos, AztraZeneca Executive Vice-President for BioPharmaceuticals Research and Development.

"Storm Chaser is exploring the use of a combination of monoclonal antibodies given intramuscularly in those who have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 ' a setting where vaccination would not have time to work and we have no other proven therapies to date."

ISRO developing green propellant: Chairman Sivan

SPACE

CHENNAI: Indian Space Research Organisation chairman K Sivan on Saturday said the space agency was developing 'green propulsion' for its ambitious human space flight mission, 'Gaganyaan'.

He also said it may be adopted for use in every stage of a rocket. He was speaking at the 16th convocation of SRM Institute of Science and Technology, near here. Sivan, also the Secretary, Department of Space, advised the new graduates to take up 'calculated risk' in their life as it may safeguard them from 'absolute failure'.

"As India continues to focus on economic growth, it needs to ensure that environmental damage is limited by adopting green technologies. ISRO has made space grade lithium-ion batteries and this technology is useful for mass adoption of electric vehicle", he noted.

On the green propellant, Sivan said, "Even in the rocket propulsion, ISRO is developing green propulsion for its human space flight mission. In future, all the propulsion stages may adopt green propulsion."

According to ISRO, polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) a trusted workhorse of the space scientists — is a four stage rocket filled with fuel which pushes the rocket to ensure that the satellite it carries is placed in the intended orbit. GSLV or a geo-stationery launch vehicle (GSLV) is a three stage rocket with a cryogenic upper stage.

The space agency had planned to launch its maiden human space flight mission 'Gaganyaan' by December 2021. But early this month, ISRO indicated that it is likely to be delayed by one year due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

Addressing students through virtual platform, the ISRO chief encouraged them to take up calculated risk as it would safeguard them from absolute failure. "You may fail, but each failure would provide a valuable lesson. India's space programme has been built on spectacular failures."

JAM-NAGAR

Traffic jam at Rohtang, north portal, after the town of Manali received fresh snowfall on Saturday | PTI

Initiative to revive Henwal river pays off

ENVIRONMENT

RISHIKESH (UTTARAKHAND): A holistic approach based on the springshed and aquifer recharge method to revive the Henwal river 'a tributary of the Ganga with which it merges here' has begun to pay off and its discharge level has improved, officials said on Saturday. The Henwal river flows from near the revered Surkanda Devi temple in Tehri district to Shivpuri area of Rishikesh, where it merges with the Ganga.

Efforts to revive the Henwal were launched about a year ago by the Narendra Nagar Forest Division after concerns were raised in a Central Water Board report in 2018 over the declining discharge level of the tributary, DFO Dharma Singh Meena said.

Excessive exploitation of natural resources in the area, unplanned construction of roads and climate change are the factors that have contributed to the declining discharge level of the Henwal river.

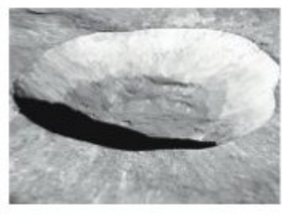
FACT OF THE MATTER

Tool detects hand gestures

TECHNOLOGY

A team of scientists has developed a new device that can recognise hand gestures based on electrical signals detected in the forearm. The system, which couples wearable biosensors with artificial intelligence, could one day be used to control prosthetics or to interact with almost any type of electronic device, said engineers from Berkeley. "Prosthetics are one important application of this technology, but it also offers an intuitive way of communicating with computers," said Ali Moin, who helped design the device. Reading hand gestures is a way of improving human-computer interaction. The team succeeded in teaching the algorithm to recognise 21 gestures.

1 lakh impact craters found



SPACE

An international team of researchers has identified over 109,000 previously unrecognised impact craters on the moon using machine learning methods. The study, led by researchers from Jilin University, was published in *Nature Communications*. Impact craters are the most prominent lunar surface feature and occupy most of the moon's surface. With traditional automatic identification methods, it is difficult to find irregular and degraded impact craters that may have formed in the early periods. To effectively identify craters, researchers applied a transfer learning method and trained a deep neural network with the data of previously identified craters.

WINTER SURGE

After early success, South Korea sleepwalks into virus crisis

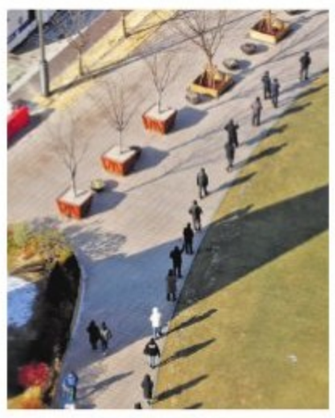
HEALTH

SEOUL: South Korea had seemed to be winning the fight against the coronavirus: Quickly ramping up its testing, contact-tracing and quarantine efforts paid off when it weathered an early outbreak without the economic pain of a lockdown. But a deadly resurgence has reached new heights during Christmas week, prompting soul-searching on how the nation sleepwalked into a crisis.

The 1,241 infections on Christmas Day were the largest daily increase. Another 1,132 cases were reported Saturday, bringing South Korea's caseload to 55,902. Over 15,000 were added in the last 15 days alone. An additional 221 fatalities over the same period, the deadliest stretch, took the death toll to 793.

As the numbers keep rising, the shock to people's livelihoods is deepening and public confidence in the government eroding. Officials could decide to increase social distancing measures to maximum levels on Sunday, after resisting for weeks. Tighter restrictions could be inevitable because transmissions have been outpacing efforts to expand hospital capacities. In the greater Seoul area, more facilities have been designated for Covid-19 treatment and dozens of general hospitals have been ordered to allocate more ICUs for virus patients. Hundreds of troops have been deployed to help with contract tracing.

At least four patients have died at their homes or long-term care facilities while waiting for admission this month, said Kwak Jin, an official at the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. The agency said 299 among 16,577 active patients were in serious or critical condition.



People queue up to undergo coronavirus test in Seoul | AP

"Our hospital system isn't going to collapse, but the crush in Covid-19 patients has significantly hampered our response," said Choi Won Suk, an infectious disease professor at the Korea University Ansan Hospital, west of Seoul.

Choi said the government should have done more to prepare hospitals for a winter surge. "We have patients with all kinds of serious illnesses at our ICUs and they can't share any space with Covid-19 patients, so it's hard," Choi said. "It's the same medical staff that has been fighting the virus for all these months. There's an accumulation of fatigue."

Critics say the government of President Moon Jae-in became complacent after swiftly containing the outbreak this spring that was centered in the southeastern city of Daegu. The past weeks have underscored risks of putting economic concerns before public health when vaccines are at least months away. Officials had eased social distancing rules to their lowest in October, allowing high-risk venues like clubs and karaoke rooms to reopen, although experts were warning of a viral surge during winter when people spend longer hours indoors.

Jaehun Jung, a professor of preventive medicine at the Gachon University College of Medicine in Incheon, said he anticipates infections to gradually slow over the next two weeks. The quiet streets and long lines snaking around testing stations in Seoul, which are temporarily providing free tests to anyone regardless of whether they have symptoms or not, demonstrate a return of public alertness following months of pandemic fatigue.

Officials are also clamping down on private social gatherings through January 3.